

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 MAY 1983

Lebanon

Military, Security Situation — Following Damascus radio's 28 May announcement that the Syrian Armed Forces had completed their spring maneuvers, Jerusalem radio reported that the end of the Syrian exercise, "apparently earlier than originally planned," indicates that the Syrians are attempting to defuse tension. Nevertheless, three IDF soldiers were killed in armed ambushes on 27 and 29 May which the Israelis attributed to "terrorists" operating from behind Syrian lines, according to ITIM and Jerusalem radio. Israel will shortly "put the Syrians in their place" and will make it clear to them that Israel is not prepared to tolerate "terrorist activity" from Syrian-controlled territory, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich warned in remarks reported by IDF Radio. According to Damascus radio and SANA, the Lebanese nationalist resistance was responsible for attacks on the IDF at Bhamdun and 'Ammiq.

Political Developments — Citing Lebanese press reports, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad recently paid a secret visit to the Soviet Union. The Syrians have also begun secret talks with Saudi Arabia on the question of their withdrawal from Lebanon, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Meanwhile, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil declared that the Syrian stand is "not final" and appealed for Arab cooperation in "dealing with" the Syrian position, Beirut radio reported. Foreign Minister Elie Salim also expressed readiness to hold talks with the Syrians on a withdrawal agreement, the radio said. In another development the radio noted that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan held talks in Paris with his French counterpart, Pierre Mauroy. Mauroy announced that France might intervene on Lebanon's behalf "in certain circumstances" and with other countries, AFP reported.

Kuwaiti, Saudi Views — The Kuwaiti Parliament "rejected" the Lebanese-Israeli agreement as a "humiliating surrender document," KUNA reported on 29 May. Saudi newspapers reviewed by Riyadh radio the following day called for an extraordinary Arab summit conference to "confront Israeli plans" in Lebanon and said Israel must withdraw unconditionally from the country.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Crisis — Palestinian dissidents attempted to seize a PLO base near Damascus but were repelled by fighters loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing REUTER. The base commander disclosed that two defenders were wounded in the fighting, which occurred on 29 May. Meanwhile, "unknown armed elements" attacked and occupied PLO administrative centers in Damascus for supply, procurement, fuel, transportation, and finances, according to a statement by a PLO source broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. Noting that the centers are routinely guarded by Syrian fedayeen police, the source said the PLO was "surprised by these serious actions against the Palestinian revolution." A

spokesman for the dissidents within Fatah denied that the offices were seized by force, maintaining instead that the centers are commanded by five Fatah officers who have declared support for the dissidents in Al-Biqa', AFP reported. The takeover of the offices may "seriously compromise" relations between the PLO leadership and Syria, according to AFP, while Palestinian sources said 'Arafat is considering closing the Fatah offices in Damascus and transferring Fatah personnel outside Syria. Citing REUTER, Radio Monte Carlo reported that President al-Asad has sent messages to 'Arafat and other Fatah leaders urging them to resolve their differences in view of the "grave circumstances" Syria and the PLO are experiencing. Earlier, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf denied Syria is supporting the dissidents and said all efforts to settle the matter are purely Palestinian, KUNA reported. On the other hand, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir accused Syria of supplying the dissidents with arms and of conspiring to place all PLO forces in Al-Biqa' under their command, according to a press statement reported by Amman radio. The radio also reported that several Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza have expressed support for 'Arafat and denounced the dissidents and Syria.

Phalangist Radio Materials — Among its reports on the dissension within Fatah, Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that 'Arafat was subjected to an assassination attempt on the Lebanese-Syrian border early on 30 May but escaped unhurt, that 'Arafat held a secret meeting with Syrian defense squads commander Rif'at al-Asad without positive results, and that the PLO leader is planning to establish a permanent headquarters in the Tripoli area of northern Lebanon. A PLO official statement carried by Wafa later denied the radio's report of an assassination attempt, WAKH reported.

Khalaf Moscow Visit — Fatah official Salah Khalaf confirmed he will visit Moscow shortly to exchange views with Soviet officials on "overall developments" in the middle East, according to KUNA.

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee — The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee entrusted with supporting the steadfastness of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories will contact Arab countries that have not paid their scheduled contributions to the steadfastness fund so that they will fulfill their obligations, Amman radio reported.

Israel-PLO POW Exchange

Israel is prepared "without preconditions" to enter negotiations with the PLO on the release of IDF prisoners, former IDF manpower chief Major General Moshe Nativ announced in an interview reported by ITIM on 29 May. Israeli official sources cited by Jerusalem radio subsequently contradicted Nativ's announcement, asserting that he was speaking for himself alone and that Israel has not changed its refusal to negotiate with the

PLO. Earlier, PLO official Khalil al-Wazir disclosed that a PLO delegation would shortly leave for Europe for discussions with International Red Cross and Austrian officials on the exchange of Palestinian and Israeli prisoners, QNA reported.

Turkey-Iraq

The Turkish military operation in the Iraqi border area met no resistance and attained its "limited goal" without bloodshed, according to a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Ankara radio on 27 May. Noting that the action was taken to restore peace and security in the area following violations of Turkish security and attacks on Turkish forces by "certain armed groups," the statement said Turkey exchanged views on these developments with the "friendly" Iraqi Government prior to the operation. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry source cited by INA confirmed that Iraq knew in advance about the Turkish incursion and revealed that Iraq had given Turkey permission to cross the border 5 km into Iraq for a limited period of time "if deemed necessary and in cases of extreme urgency." The Iraqi ambassador in Turkey subsequently announced in an interview with the Turkish paper *Gunes* reported by AFP that Iraqi troops also participated in the operation, in which up to 2,000 Kurdish separatists were arrested. A primary objective of the action was to protect the Turkish-Iraqi oil pipeline from sabotage, he revealed. A diplomatic source in Ankara cited by Radio Monte Carlo said the operation would be completed on 31 May. Six Turkish soldiers were killed in the fighting, the source disclosed. Citing "well-informed sources" in Ankara, AFP reported earlier that the Turkish troops had penetrated 30 km into Iraq.

In a related development Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad over the weekend and gave the Iraqi leader a message from Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with bilateral relations and "the regional situation," INA reported.

Meanwhile, Kurdish opposition groups in Iraq condemned the Turkish action: In a 29 May statement broadcast by the clandestine Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq claimed that the Turkish incursion is a violation of international law and part of a "wider plot by world imperialism" to terminate the Kurdish liberation movement and the Iraqi democratic nationalist movement. The party, which is led by Mas'ud Barzani, also denounced rival Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani for allegedly cooperating with the Iraqi regime. Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan likewise issued a statement in London condemning Turkey's "violent aggression," which "clearly shows the weakness and disability of the Iraqi regime," AFP reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi aircraft destroyed a large Iranian "naval target" in the northern part of the Persian Gulf, according to a 30 May Iraqi military communique carried by INA. An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio the same day claimed that "all enemy attempts at aerial aggression" during the past 24 hours were foiled. The communiqués of the two sides also accused each other of shelling each other's cities. Earlier, a statement by an Iraqi military spokesman on Baghdad radio warned Iran that

if it continues shelling civilian areas Iraq will be forced to react "vehemently." As for Iran, IRNA reported on 30 May that Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani again reaffirmed that, although Iran has refrained from shelling civilian areas for the sake of Iraqi Muslims, its tolerance and restraint from undertaking such operations are limited and it could reverse this strategy. Should Iran decide to direct its artillery against eastern Iraq, it could suddenly make 1-2 million Iraqis homeless and create a critical situation for the Iraqi regime, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added.

In another development the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps called on all fighters who have previously served at the battlefronts and on all others who wish to serve to volunteer for service against the Iraqi enemy, according to a statement broadcast by Tehran radio 29 May.

Iran

Khomeyni Speech — Neither the Tudeh Party nor the Baha'is are being tried and imprisoned merely for "what they are," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared in a 28 May speech broadcast by Tehran radio. However, Baha'ism is not a religion but is a U.S.-supported party, and "these people are spies like the others," Khomeyni added. Asserting that there are "satans" inside Iran, Khomeyni said that while criticism of the government is legitimate, "conspiracy and planning to weaken the Islamic Republic" are not permitted.

Gromyko Meeting — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko received the Iranian ambassador in Moscow at the latter's request for a discussion of questions of "mutual interest," TASS reported on 27 May.

Maghreb Affairs

Algerian Minister's Visit to Morocco — Talks characterized by the spirit of "fraternity, openness, and mutual understanding" took place in Rabat between Algerian Interior Minister M'hamed Yala and his Moroccan counterpart, Driss Basri, according to a statement broadcast by Rabat radio on 28 May. The two sides expressed their "utmost satisfaction" with the development of relations and agreed to exert all efforts to normalize them, the statement added. As a result of the talks a number of "significant" measures aimed at the free movement of people and goods between the two countries were adopted: reopening of air routes; restoring rail links; and developing and intensifying cooperation in various areas, including "civil protection," telecommunications, and national security. Algiers radio said the meeting took place in a "fraternal" atmosphere and stressed the two sides' resolve to work in earnest for the normalization of relations in order to build a united and prosperous Maghreb.

Bourguiba Visit — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba arrived in Algiers on 29 May for political talks with Algerian leaders, Algiers radio reported.

Libya-Sudan

Ten Libyan officers training for Libya's Military Industry Corporation in the FRG defected to the opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya and arrived in Khartoum on 28 May, SUNA reported.

Afghanistan

Afghan insurgents destroyed two Soviet-made helicopter gunships and damaged three others in a rocket and mortar attack on

Jalalabad Airport in which at least 21 Soviet and Afghan soldiers died, according to a 28 May AFP report citing the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS. Meanwhile, BAKHTAR reported on 29 May that 80 insurgents belonging to Mawlawi Khalis' "armed criminal" group in Kabul Province availed themselves of the DRA amnesty decree and surrendered to the authorities. In another development Kabul radio reported on 30 May that 13 "enemies" of the revolution were eliminated in Nangarhar Province, while other groups were "crushed" in Qonduz and Takhar Provinces.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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AL-WATAN Interviews Fatah's Abu Musa*GF271500 Kuwait Al-Watan in Arabic 26 May 83 p 11*

[Interview with Fatah's Sa'id Musa, alias Abu Musa, by unidentified AL-WATAN correspondent in Al-Biqa', Lebanon, on 21 May]

[Text] On the evening of last Thursday *Al-Watan* interviewed Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, in Amman to find out what is taking place inside Fatah. On the following day, Friday, *Al-Watan* was in Damascus on the way to Al-biqa' to meet with Sa'id Musa, alias Abu Musa, to hear his view on what is going on in Fatah.

We were fully aware that getting to the truth will not be easy. Speaking with Abu Jihad was difficult. Getting to Abu Musa was no less difficult — it was even more difficult.

The first surprise when we arrived in Damascus was that we learned that Abu Musa, Nimr Salih (alias Abu Salih), Muhammad al-Badri (alias Abu Majdi), and Abu Khalid al-Umlah had decided not to give statements to journalists and to limit themselves to the four statements they have issued so far.

The second shock, so to speak, was when several Palestinian leaders assured us that Abu Musa does not stay in the same place for "he moves from one position to another in Al-Biqa' among the fighters throughout the day." This is what they said to us. So that we would not fail in our objective we asked to interview another leader from his "group." However, our request was rejected "because a decision was made not to make statements so as to avert confusion and deviations."

On Saturday morning we were able to persuade a leading official of the need to hear Abu Musa, "for we had traveled 2,000 km for this purpose because we believed in the need for a meeting and in the importance of hearing the view of the other side on what is happening." Eventually we achieved our objective.

We traveled in the morning in a military Range Rover from Damascus to Al-Biqa' where there was a forest of fighters equipped with sophisticated light and heavy weapons. Al-Biqa' was full of Syrian and Palestinian bases, but where was Abu Musa among all these hordes?

Accompanied by two officials we traveled in the Range Rover from one base to another. Each time we believed that we had reached our objective. We did not ask where we were — we feared the consequences of the question. We did not want to embarrass anyone or appear to be intrusive. Before we felt hungry we were offered a meal. We ate with the fighters. Frankly, we did not feel we had eaten, although our stomachs had been empty. We were only thinking of how to get to Abu Musa, interview him, and find out what he and his "group" want. There were several questions in our mind. Why was he right in his making his demands, what were the justifications of the declaration, what were its dangers and repercussions for the Palestinian cause, particularly as Fatah is the principal Palestinian organization? These and other questions caused us a headache which we wanted Abu Musa to end.

The Range Rover took us across a rough and winding road. Although the driver knew the road well and knew every bump and ditch, this did not spare us the rough and dangerous ride. Several times we thought the car would turn over. The driver was unaware of our apprehensions and we did not want to disturb him and tell him we were afraid. Despite the roughness of the road, he was driving fast, confident of his driving skill.

In any case, we finally arrived near Abu Musa. We sensed it without anybody telling us. In fact moments later we stopped at a checkpoint manned by armed men. The driver talked to them and they described to him the road leading to Abu Musa's quarters. It was evening when we reached the last armed checkpoint before entering Abu Musa's quarters. We emerged from the car leaving the driver talking to the official in charge of the checkpoint. He then pointed to us to go forward. We went forward. Our briefcases were not opened and we were not searched. We were received in a small room in which two people were sitting. We were offered tea. We waited a few minutes until Abu Musa entered the room. He welcomed us and asked us about Kuwait and the weather there nowadays and when we arrived in Damascus.

Abu Musa said: Whom did you interview in Damascus? We said: Your "group" refused to make any statements. He said: We do not want to make statements. I refused to meet with several journalists. However, as you have traveled a long way and insist on knowing the truth, I will speak to you for the first time. He then began to speak and we report here everything Abu Musa said, just as we did when we reported Abu Jihad's interview last Friday. Abu Musa objected to the words "group," "mutiny," and "dissidence." He preferred that we use the phrase "state for correcting the present situation."

[Abu Musa] The fact is that we believe that what happened is an internal affair within Fatah. Therefore, we are not interested in bringing it to the outside press. If we have to speak we say that it is Fatah's present leadership that has made and issued statements in which it attempted to avoid facing the truth, as though the issue is one of a mutiny or dissidence. Fatah's leadership knows that the Palestinian cause is not an issue of an officer or a group of officers, or an issue of a military group of elements in the arena of conflict in Al-Biqa' rebelling against military orders. Ours is a cry for correcting a mistaken political action that had begun to develop and emerge more clearly following our departure from Beirut. Frankly, there is a political conflict within Fatah that has been going on for years. This conflict has developed into a broad current that believes in political concepts that are committed to Fatah's statutes and political program.

We always used to discuss our problems within frameworks and within closed rooms in order to correct this deviation in the main political issues until matters reached the stage — in the post-Beirut era — when we felt that this political inclination posed a threat to the fighting will and to the goal for which the revolution was originally established.

Let us cite some examples: Following our freeze in Beirut, several positive questions evolved. And these should have given us the

incentive to stiffen our political stands in order to confront the U.S. imperialist plan and in order for this steadfastness not to become a catalyst for implementing the U.S. plot and program. Following the battle of Beirut, we should have also submitted a struggle plan that commits the Palestinian revolution to confront the U.S. plan on Lebanon's territory by virtue of the fact of the existing occupation and as a field of struggle through alliance with the nationalist movement and the honorable forces who are determined to continue the fight. However, this leadership went to Fes, and we consider that the Fes plan is actually Fahd's plan which stems from Camp David and from UN Resolution 242 despite the inclusion of certain points which at first glance appear positive, such as demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state, the return of refugees, regaining Jerusalem, and eliminating the settlements. But we wonder who is capable of translating this program or that plan. Are Arab summits capable of doing such a thing?

And I answer: No, because from our experience in Lebanon no one moved to provide Beirut's children with a single drink of water. We realize that the establishment of the Palestinian state and the return of the refugees is an issue that requires several wars. When the United States and Israel feel that their interests in the region are threatened, it is only at that moment that our voice as a Palestinian revolution will be heard. Then, the Arab countries can impose their plans, although they are supposed to be on the line of confrontation and in the middle of the conflict and not in a position to make deficient plans. Had these plans been offered by friends or allies or other parties, they could have been accepted, but not from the Arab countries because this is not what is expected of them. However, despite all this we say that whatever the matters may be, there is supposed to be a Palestinian option when there is a state of inability to implement these plans. Our Palestinian option since 1965 has been the option of armed struggle. However, the Palestinian leadership accepted the Arab option and dropped the option of armed struggle. Anyway, the Fes plan was renounced in the first week of its birth when Reagan rejected it and informed the Arab committee that a bridge between his plan and the Arab plan should be established.

We, inside the Fatah movement, recorded our objection to the plan and the objection was signed by Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], Abu Mahir Al-Yamani, and Talal Naji in a form of a joint statement. Then we demanded that a similar statement be issued in the name of the Central Committee within the movement to explain to our movement, cadres, and base that the seventh point of the plan does not mean recognition [of Israel]. But the leadership refused this demand.

And as for the Reagan plan, it was proposed on the day on which the last batch left Beirut. We heard the clauses of the plan when we were at sea. Its discussion in the Fatah movement began; we discussed its positive and negative sides. Through a simple political reading of the plan we find that it denies the existence of the Palestinian people and not only the Palestinian question. It also says no to the Palestinian state, no to the PLO, no to Jerusalem and its return, and yes to the settlements and to changing the borders. Despite all this, some voices within Fatah said there were positive points in the plan — that it recognized for the first time

that the West Bank and Gaza Strip were under occupation. Is there anything new in this? Is there any justice in this?

We decided to adopt a positive stand in Fatah because Fatah is the Palestinian decision, and if a positive decision that is compatible with our situation is adopted, this will similarly apply to the other Palestinian organizations. And if a negative decision is adopted it will necessarily be reflected in the Palestinian arena. This is what happened in the PNC where Fatah inclinations imposed themselves even on our comrades in the other Palestinian organizations. Fatah's leadership did not try to convene its authorized bodies such as the Central Committee or the Revolutionary Council in order to discuss this issue in detail, consciously and properly, and then make a decision. The Reagan plan continued to be discussed in secondary and lateral dialogues until we reached the PNC. I know well that before going to the PNC, Palestinian organizations and leaderships met in Damascus and put forward the minimum limit of their stands on all the political questions that were proposed, including the Reagan plan. The decision of these organizations was absolute rejection of Reagan's plan. But what happened in Algiers? What happened is that, under the slogans of preserving national unity and in order for the Palestinian stand not to be shredded in the shade of this retrogradation stage, the Palestinian organizations surrendered to the pressures from Fatah's leadership and thus the PNC came out with an inhibiting and ambiguous resolution implying that the PNC rejects the plan as a basis for just and comprehensive settlement and that the plan does not fulfill the ambitions of the Palestinian people, and so on.

In the end the plan was not rejected. The Palestinian organizations agreed to this under pressure and out of anxiety about national unity and divisions. Add to this that there were blackmail and pressures in the direction of accepting the resolution.

After the Reagan plan we plunged into a new whirlpool, the plan for a confederation with Jordan. We began to discuss the details before the state had been established — instead of first establishing the state and then discussing the confederation, which would be a direct result of establishing the state. Without going into all the details of this matter, I say that so far no clear decision has been made on this matter. We have not closed the door on it; it remains unresolved. There should be clear agreement that talks on a confederation are to be held after the establishment of an independent state.

One week after the suspension of talks with Jordan, 'Arafat returned to Damascus to execute military appointments in the areas where we were stationed in Lebanon — a move made in the direction of the U.S. solution and without referring to Fatah's Military Council. 'Arafat placed on the top of the military pyramid commanders whose appointment we believe represents the future political course more than it represents an organizational matter. We objected to the appointment of Abu Hajim and Al-Hajj Isma'il. Hence we say to those who accuse us and cast aspersions on the timing of our "state of correcting the situation" that the timing was imposed on us. If we had allowed the situation to continue as it was and if we had allowed the consolidation of these mistaken appointments, more measures would have been taken in the same direction. It was the leadership that was the

initiator and not us. As I have said, it is a political matter and not a mutiny as they try to suggest to the people.

They say that we are 38 soldiers. I do not want to say that we are in the hundreds, for it is not a question of numbers. It is a question of the reforms we are calling for, the clear and committed political stands that are compatible with our political program and that must be adopted.

We have seized the initiative and taken the risk not because we are more revolutionary than the others but because everyone supports our demands.

It is not a question of numbers. If it had been so I would have addressed an appeal to all our fedayeen and they would all have joined us. We are an indivisible part of Fatah. We are the conscience of Fatah who have raised their voice and thought aloud, and express the broad faithful base.

(?The closest people to) Abu 'ammar believe in our demands. All of us believe in a democratic dialogue within frameworks, but where are these frameworks? Unfortunately, they have been exhausted and killed within Fatah.

We have been calling for many years for commitment to the frameworks. But as I have said, these frameworks, foremost of which is the Central Committee framework, have been exhausted to the degree that there is no confidence now. The leadership work has deviated from its line.

The second framework which has been exhausted is the Revolutionary Council. The 1980 events are clear proof of what I say. The fourth conference of the movement [Fatah] elected only 25 members out of a total of 72 and the rest of the members were appointed. These two frameworks have become idle. Therefore, we said that in light of these difficulties, it is only the base represented by the conference which is left for us because it is capable of handling all the political and organizational questions under discussion and it is capable of specifying the constant factors to put an end to such a deviation. Hence, the conference can take the appropriate and necessary measures, discuss many of the issues which occurred between the two conferences, and can revise the decisions adopted by the fourth conference which have not been executed until now. For example, the fourth conference adopted a decision on the formation of a financial followup committee and a movement followup committee, but this decision has not been carried out. The conference can revive these issues to participate in protecting the national course. Therefore, we say that we are not another or new side and we do not represent any party, but we do represent a broad base.

The clear political and organizational positions inside Fatah necessarily impose themselves on the Palestinian arena and its Arab expansion. The continuation of this reality inside the Fatah movement is a reflection of the movement's situation which led the Palestinian issue to dangerous stages that have stricken the national Palestinian course since the beginning of the Palestinian revolution in 1921 until this day. Therefore, it is necessary to stop and examine what we have achieved. What has this revolution achieved? Is it capable of shouldering the responsibility in confronting these big plans in light of its current reality or should it

rearrange itself in a proper manner so that it can confront the coming stage? We say that the political (?subordination) of the National Council when it said yes to many of the political issues is neither a revolutionary nor a clear act. Political clarity is the major base. We understand that in the stages of retreat revolutionary movements adhere more closely to principles and bases.

What should I say to my father who fought in 1936 before the occupation of Palestine and the establishment of the Israeli state? What should I say to those who fought during these years to prevent the establishment of such a state? Are we fighting in order to recognize Israel? This is not reasonable, not reasonable and strange. These issues should be reexplained and corrected. Lastly, is it fair that the Central Committee issues decisions to put us under the command of the commander in chief together with Abu Hajim and Al-Haj Isma'il? Is it fair that it issues decisions to freeze our activity?

I will make the base add more pressure and I will form a current to exert more pressure so that we can reach the conference. I will not allow any armed collision at all. Time is in our favor. We will remain in Al-Biq'a, as you see, 1.5 km from the enemy, even if the Syrians and others decide to withdraw. I will remain here with the fighters. We have put into consideration all calculations so that the force remains capable of reacting in this land. We will make from Lebanon the first and correct position for collision and struggle with Israel and we will strengthen our relations with the Lebanese national movement. Anyhow, if you ask me about the possibility of war, I will tell you that it is not likely to take place now. I see that there is a balance or something like a strategic balance and this is one of the reasons which prevents the occurrence of war.

Military Action 'Not Ruled Out'

NC281546 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 28 May 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, May 28 (AFP) — The mutiny in the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organisation flared again here today with the Publication of an article saying followers of PLO leader 'Yasir 'Arafat could attack the rebels.

One of the leaders of the opposition within Fatah, the main PLO movement, commander Samir (Abu) Musa, said in an interview in the pro-Libyan magazine, *Al-Kifah al-'Arabi*, that he did not "rule out military action against him by supporters of Yasir 'Arafat."

Abu Musa, who controls Palestinian positions at Hammarah, south-east of the Al-Biq'a, near the Syrian frontier, said that his men "would perhaps not reply to the first or second shots, but certainly to the third." The article was published just hours after Yasir 'Arafat, president of the PLO's Executive Committee, met the members of Fatah's Central Committee in Damascus.

Abu Salih, who was expelled from Fatah's Central Committee in January, told the magazine *Al-Kifah al-'Arabi* that he was co-ordinating his action with Syria and that his links with the Soviet Union were solid.

He accused Mr. 'Arafat of "turning the PLO into a pot pourri of all sorts of views and ideas when the only path to follow was armed struggle."

Abu Salih said his opposition movement was demanding that all Palestinian fighters regroup to confront the Israelis and not get bogged down in diplomacy. He also urged that a committee be set up to manage Fatah's funds and that Fatah members reject the leadership of one man (Mr. 'Arafat).

UAE Paper Interviews Fatah Opposition Leader

GF301512 Ash-Sharīqah Al-Khalij in Arabic 30 May 83
pp 1 13

["Exclusive" report from Damascus]

[Excerpts] Differences within Fatah have reached a deadlock, because the two sides insist on their announced stands and it seems that the forces supporting Colonel Abu Musa are not so modest as they were made to appear in some press reports.

Regarding efforts being exerted to resolve the differences, Yasir 'Arafat refused, until yesterday evening, to meet the demands of the opposition group at a time when Palestinian officials asserted that no seizure was made of any offices of Fatah or the Palestinian Liberation Army and that what had happened was that a number of officials in these offices expressed support for Col Abu Musa and refused to stop supplying the "opposition forces".

On his part, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, denied on his arrival in Kuwait yesterday that any occupation of Fatah offices had taken place. He said: "What happened was not an occupation but was an exploitation of the absence of those working in these offices and entry into them."

News agencies quoted Palestinian officials as saying Fatah members will defend from now on their positions outside Damascus and will confront any party that attacks these positions.

As for the meeting of the Revolutionary Council which was scheduled to be convened yesterday, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, told newsmen in Damascus that the date of the meeting has not been set because of the recent developments of the differences inside the movement. Abu Jihad said: The date of the council's meeting will finally be set after 'Arafat's return from the visit he is currently making to the city of Tripoli.

Samih Abu Kuwayk, alias Qadri, one of the leaders of the opposition to 'Arafat, has told *Al-Khalij* that he has received an invitation to attend the Revolutionary Council meeting which is scheduled to be held tomorrow. He said he has not yet decided whether to participate in the meeting, "where it is necessary to discuss things with brothers". Qadri reiterated that "the current opposition is not subservient to anyone and it is not subservient to any Arab regime and does not receive guidance other than from Fatah's principles and the Palestinian revolution's interest".

In a telephone call *Al-Khalij* held with him yesterday evening, Qadri said: "We are not dissidents and we are more anxious than others to keep Fatah strong and coherent." He added: "This

group represents Fatah's conscience and expresses very well the independent national Palestinian decision and has no other goal than to confirm and attain the goals which Fatah has embodied in its political program and statutes." "The leadership still insists on not responding to the demands which we have made and still insists on not arriving at solutions or retreating on the appointment decisions which, in our view, represent a step toward dissension," he said. He added: "After we agreed to the convocation of the movement's general congress, the leadership did not respond to us and made false charges against us and issued a statement in the name of a number of members of the Executive Committee to confirm the appointment decisions."

Qadri said that "we consider this conduct by the leadership a rejection of all what we have proposed," He added: "What some strugglers in the general procurement centers have done is a reply to the leadership's instructions to cut the supplies to the fighters; 'committees of revolution until victory' have been formed in these centers to distribute supplies to every Palestinian revolution fighter."

Qadri said: "There is an increasing understanding of our stand by the some of our Palestinian people and the masses and the Jordanian nationalist leaders in Jordan. In Syria our stand is totally understood by the sons of our people." "A number of secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution factions are making good efforts to resolve the differences peacefully. However, the other party continues to hold fast to its stand and insists on it," he added.

Qadri also said: "These stands by the leadership make the issue aggravate against the interest of the Palestinian revolution and our people's goals, because what is required from us is to settle differences through the fraternal democratic way." He added: "A number of Fatah Central Committee members want to dismiss us from the movement's political, military, and organizational institutions, but at the same time, there are other members who call for a democratic dialogue and a settlement of the dispute in accordance with Fatah's rules and regulations." Qadri said: "If the leadership continues to insist on its current demands, which do not serve anyone, I believe we will prove that we are concerned about Fatah's unity. We will move and our move will ultimately protect Fatah's unity." "We will never use arms to achieve what we propose but we will use dialogue and will demand that all accept their responsibilities," he added.

Qadri reiterated his rejection of media wrangle and slander and said: "It is not in the interest of the revolution to enter the labyrinth of a media wrangle, because this does not serve our people and revolution."

Monte Carlo: Seizure of Fatah Centers in Damascus

JN290646 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0300 GMT
29 May 83

[Text] In Damascus five Fatah officers announced yesterday that they had joined the ranks of dissident Colonel Abu Musa, one of the opposition leaders inside the Palestinian movement. The five officers are: Major 'Ali Shukri, Captain Abu Haydar, Captain Abu Khalid, Captain Abu 'Imad, and Lieutenant Abu Hasan.

At a press conference in the office of Abu Salih, who was suspended from the Fatah Central Committee early this year, the five officers said that their joining Abu Musa's group is in reply to the Fatah command's suspension of supplies from the opposition group present in Al-Biqa'.

In a dispatch from Damascus, REUTER reported that three persons were wounded when dissident Palestinian elements seized some Fatah bureaus in Damascus. This is the first time blood has been shed since the announcement of a mutiny by some Palestinian officers 3 weeks ago.

REUTER cites a source close to the PLO as saying that two Palestinian officials discussed the situation with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam yesterday. The source added that the dissidents yesterday afternoon attacked six Palestinian supply warehouses, located in the northern part of Damascus. The identity of the wounded has not been revealed.

'Responsible Source' Statement

JN291630 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] A responsible source in the Palestinian revolution has stated the following:

Unknown armed elements have attacked administrative centers belonging to the Palestinian revolution in Damascus. These centers are: supply, procurement, fuel, transportation, and the Palestinian National Liberation Army funds. The unknown elements occupied these centers, which are known to contain no armed persons but are guarded by Syrian fedayeen police [ad-dabitah al-fiday'iyah as-suriyah].

We are surprised by these serious actions against the Palestinian revolution which is preparing to confront the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism.

AFP Provides Details

NC291708 Paris AFP in English 1654 GMT 29 May 83

[By Mouna Nabaa]

[Text] Beirut, May 29 (AFP) — Relations between Syria and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Leader Yasir 'Arafat may be seriously compromised following charges today by supporters of Mr 'Arafat that Syrian police have backed PLO dissidents. A Palestinian spokesman said in a communique phoned from the Lebanese Al-Biqa' plain to AFP's bureau here that dissidents from Mr 'Arafat's Fatah organisation — the main group in the umbrella PLO — had taken over five Fatah offices in Damascus that were guarded by Syrian police responsible for the fedayeen (al dabita al fidaiya). The communique was backed up by a report from the official Palestinian Wafa news agency.

The Syrian fedayeen police corps have been asked to ensure the security of Palestinian offices in Damascus since the PLO's evacuation of Beirut last August, reliable Palestinian sources said.

The offices seized by the dissidents handle food supplies, fuel, maintenance, and finances for the Palestine Liberation Army.

Yesterday, five Fatah leaders working in these services said in a Damascus communique that they had rallied behind Colonel Abu Musa, one of the leading members of a new Fatah dissident faction.

But Jihad Salih, the dissidents' spokesman in Damascus, today denied earlier reports that the offices had been attacked and taken over by "armed elements". He said that the heads of the five departments had simply rallied behind Col Abu Musa.

Reliable Palestinian sources in the Al-Biqa' valley said that Mr 'Arafat had begun discussing possible measures with Fatah and PLO leaders. The measures could include the closure of Fatah offices in Damascus along with the transfer of Fatah cadres and fighters outside of Syria.

Two of Fatah's most important offices in Damascus — production and food supplies and arms and administration — are among the five taken over. The other three are less important, reliable Palestinian sources said.

These latest developments come in the wake of the May 12 Fatah mutiny led by Col Abu Musa.

Col Abu Musa has denied he was acting on behalf of Syria or of any other party, and has said he wants to revitalise Fatah's "revolutionary" base.

'Armed Takeover' Denied

NC291306 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Damascus, May 29 (AFP) — Fatah dissidents today challenged reports that six Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) offices here had been taken over by "armed elements," claiming they belonged to the men who yesterday rallied to rebel Colonel Abu Musa. Jihad Salih, the dissidents' spokesman here, said reports by the official PLO news agency Wafa of an armed takeover were "erroneous." There was no armed attack, he said, explaining the offices belong to the five Palestinian officers who yesterday announced their support for Col. Musa, the Fatah rebel currently entrenched in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' valley.

But sources close to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said "armed elements" riding in cars yesterday cut off traffic, then "attacked and occupied" the six offices.

No shots were exchanged, the sources said. Instead the staff manning the offices left peacefully in accordance with instructions not to use arms within Damascus. They said the six offices were staffed by about 400 people including military officers.

The same sources warned that members of Fatah would defend their positions by force outside the Syrian capital.

"Democratic dialogue will be limited to Damascus," they said.

Wafa Denies Assassination Attempt Against 'Arafat
GF301836 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 30 May (WAKH) — A senior Palestinian official has denied reports about an assassination attempt against PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat. In a statement issued by Wafa, the Palestinian source described these reports as untrue.

Quoting its special sources, the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon reported that 'Arafat escaped an assassination attempt this morning near the Lebanese-Syrian border. The radio said one of 'Arafat's bodyguards was killed in the attempt but it did not elaborate on the area which it claimed the attempt had been made against 'Arafat, or on the circumstances or the perpetrators.

It should be noted that the PLO leader is currently visiting the Lebanese Al-Biq'a valley to end the "problem" which arose within Fatah.

San'a' VOP: Fatah CC Meets; 'Arafat Visits Al-Biq'a
GF281630 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, met in Damascus last night with several members of Fatah Central Committee. The members are: Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym], Abu al-Adib [Salim az-Za'nun], and Hani al-Hasan. A large number of Fatah cadres in Syria, officials of popular and trade union organizations, and representatives in a number of provinces attended the meeting. They reviewed the political and military situation in light of developments in the region in view of the intensification of Zionist concentrations in the occupied areas of Lebanon and the escalation of military tension in Al-Biq'a.

An official Palestinian source said that during the expanded meeting the situation in the Palestinian arena was fully discussed. The result of the discussion was placed on the agenda of the Fatah Revolutionary Council which is scheduled to meet soon in Damascus.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also reviewed the results of his recent inspection tour of Palestinian military units in Al-Biq'a and northern Lebanon and the results of his intensive discussions with Palestinian commanders during these visits.

Brother Abu 'Ammar returned to Damascus from Lebanon's Al-Biq'a early today after making a tour of all Fatah military positions and inspecting their combat readiness. Brother Abu 'Ammar was accompanied during the tour — the longest tour Abu 'Ammar has made of Al-Biq'a — by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander of the forces of the Palestinian revolution; Abu al-Mu'tasim, deputy chief of staff of the forces of the Palestinian revolution; and senior command officers.

Monte Carlo: Inspection Continues

JN310631 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat yesterday paid his 11th inspection visit of the Palestinian positions in Al-Biq'a and Tripoli. During the visit, 'Arafat, according to Wafa, was acquainted with the preparations made by the PLO units in the region to check any Israeli aggression.

AS-SAFIR: Meets Soviets, Syrian

JN311019 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat continued his inspection visits of the Palestinian positions and camps in Al-Biq'a and northern Lebanon. According to Beirut's *As-Safir*, 'Arafat received in Al-Baddawi camp yesterday a delegation from the Soviet Embassy in Damascus. The talks, which were attended by Hani al-Hasan, focused on the situation in light of the dissension within the Fatah ranks and the attack on five Fatah administrative centers in Damascus.

It may be recalled that Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] will leave for Moscow on Wednesday leading a Fatah delegation.

As-Safir also reported that Yasir 'Arafat received an emissary representing Colonel Rif'at al-Asad, brother of the Syrian president, who reiterated that Syria was not involved in the seizure of the Palestinian offices in Damascus.

PLO Statement Stresses Unity, Support for 'Arafat

GF291650 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] The PLO has emphasized that the Palestinian revolution will remain unified under a capable leadership that knows the facts of the situation, the stands, and the policies, and firmly and strongly holds fast to its independent decisions. The PLO said that all the differences that arise as a result of escalating the entire Palestinian situation will be resolved by democratic means within the legitimate organizational framework.

This came in a statement that was received yesterday from the general headquarters of the Palestinian command. The statement reaffirmed rejection of resort to arms to impose legality and its decisions. The statement said that the weapons and those who carry them are dedicated to Palestine alone and to retrieving all the rights of the Palestinian people.

The statement praised the wise and politically aware policy of Brother 'Abu 'Ammar. The statement also paid tribute to the stands of the Palestinian people inside the occupied Arab territories and asserted that these stands will be a strong blow to the enemies of the Palestinian revolution who must realize from where the Palestinian revolution draws its strength and legality.

Baghdad Voice of PLO on Fatah Leaders' Efforts
JN272046 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT
 27 May 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Over the past several days, Brothers Abu 'Ammar, commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief; and Abu Iyad, member of Fatah Central Committee, held a series of meetings with all Palestinian forces formations and units in Al-Biq'a, northern Lebanon, and Ash-Shuf. Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], secretary of the Fatah Central Committee [title as heard], held regular meetings with the cadres and directors of the PLO offices who are currently in Damascus. These intensive, open meetings come within the framework of the mobilization for the sake of... [25-second interruption] Brother Abu 'Ammar and his brothers in the Central Committee high morale among all our forces which have pledged to their revolution, command, and people to continue to be the bastion of the revolution and of its unity, national decisionmaking, principles, and great aims.

It is now amply clear that Al-Qadhdhafi's campaign against our people and revolution, particularly our Fatah movement, is meeting with derision from our fighters, who will never forget Al-Qadhdhafi's betrayal and his collusion during the difficult times during the glorious battles of Beirut. Al-Qadhdhafi's campaign came after the U.S. campaign against the PLO and its leadership and the U.S. instigations against it. It was as through Al-Qadhdhafi is presenting a bill to the United States for services rendered to his U.S. masters.

Due to the mass support of our people inside the occupied territory which defined our people's stand by the PLO and its leader Abu 'Ammar, the confrontation of the enemy has been strengthened and people's confidence increased. All municipal councils, national organizations, and establishments have expressed their decisive stand [10-second interruption] absolutely rejecting any intervention or intrusion into our unified Palestinian house and great revolution, particularly Al-Qadhdhafi's intrusion.

The revolution under Fatah is advancing. During difficult times, Fatah emerges united, proudly raising the banner of the Palestinian national struggle. Fatah is strong and firm. Great wars and plots cannot shake it. The enemies are many and their methods and guises are numerous. If there are [5-second interruption] presenting false slogans and feverish outbiddings, this is not new. Fatah has led the Palestinian people's movement, spreading the Palestinian reality all over the world and drawing the support of the Arab masses and the free and noble people in the world. Fatah is aware that the attempts of those who want to weaken and split its ranks will not stop, especially following the heroism of the Palestinian revolution and its sincere allies during the battle of Beirut and the epic of steadfastness.

Over its great and long march, Fatah was able to cross the minefields and continue its great sacrifices to its people, their cause, and the Arab nation. Fatah is always capable of penetrating all the difficult walls, surviving all ambushes, and triumphing over all plots, regardless of their source, due to the will

of its generous people, the strength of its fighting heroes, and its unity, which is as firm as the mountains of Nabulus, Hebron, and Al-Karmil.

Our people and all our military formations in Lebanon, Syria, and everywhere are embodying, through their high morale, combat readiness, and cohesion with their revolution, the hope of realizing further steadfastness and heroic deeds along the path to Palestine, the path of revolution until victory.

'Arafat Addresses Occupied Areas Masses
JN271728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT
 27 May 83

[Text] Brothers, the following is an address by Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to the masses of our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland:

O our great people; O masses of the revolution and the uprising; O kinfolk and beloved people in the homeland of resistance: Amid the bitter struggle which we are waging together in the face of the enemies and the plotters, and from the trenches of the hero fighters, makers of the greatest and most honorable battles of the Arab nation's contemporary history, I address you while you are showing the whole world the courage of the faithful and the pride of sincere men. You have continued your uprising and shown your strong cohesion with your revolution and cause and your stand as one man at the side of the PLO and its great national aims.

O kinfolk and beloved people in the resisting homeland, You are aware of the greatness of the challenges we are facing at these fateful and historical phase. We are writing for our Arab people and nation their new history. The enemies' attacks are becoming fierce. Their machinations, means, and plots to stop this great uprising are very great. However, I always confidently say that great challenges require men of great determination. You and your daring sons can take these challenges, confront them, and triumph. History respects only the strong.

During the Lebanese invasion, the enemy of our people and nation aimed to end the revolution and extinguish its light by dissipating the hopes of our people. The determination of our men, their faith in their cause, revolution, and masses foiled the attempts of the enemies and their foolish whims. Your blessed revolution and its allies in the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces faced this great challenge, writing epics of glory and heroism in Beirut, realizing the miracle, and continuing to carry the trust and the revolutionary beacon despite the fierceness of the offensive, the betrayal of the betrayers, and the silence of the silent.

From the very beginning of the invasion, they told you that the PLO no longer existed, that the door was open to go ahead with the autonomy plot. Due to the steadfastness of its heroes before the war and following the reorganization of its ranks following the war, the PLO withstood the challenges. The PLO was and will always remain strong and great, spreading the Palestinian reality all over the world and proving far and near that it is the most difficult figure in the region's equation; that there is no peace for the weak and those who grovel; and that there can be

no peace or stability in this part of the world without the realization of the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to return, to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on our national soil.

This is the clear fact which is seen by you and the world. We are proud that you have created this fact through your sweat, blood, and sacrifices. Your steadfastness and that of your revolution have been symbols of pride and vitality to the Palestinian and Arab generations. This pride and vitality, on the other hand, have provoked the anger of those who did not offer the people and the revolution in their hour of need anything except to call on them to commit suicide during the war and to call for a split during the revolution's preparations to confront current and future challenges.

In your name and in the name of your sons who are fighting in the ranks of this glorious revolution, I say that the revolution which confronted the Zionist invaders and their U.S. masters, marched across minefields and ambushes during its triumphant and long history, and rebelled against those who plot against it and intrude into it is able to continue its great march, armed with its rifles and the cohesion of its Palestinian and Arab masses, relying on a firm ground of national unity, and advancing with courage and strength toward the aims of its great people.

O kinfolk in the occupied homeland, Let us go forward in our great march and foil the enemy plots and schemes, particularly the autonomy plot and all the U.S. plans of liquidation in the region. Let us go forward with our difficult and glorious march toward our inalienable national rights: the right to return, to self-determination and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state on our national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Let us go forward along the great path which was tread by the martyrs of our people and nation and which was paved with their chaste blood, the path which leads to victory and to Palestine.

We squeeze your hands. Let us march together until victory. Your Brother Abu 'Ammar

KUNA: 'Arafat Calls for Fatah Unity

LD281314 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 May 83

[Excerpt] Damascus, 28 May [KUNA]— PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called on all political and military cadres of Fatah to show greater vigilance and caution and to uphold the unity of Fatah as a reply to all forms of American imperialist Zionist plotting, which has been intensifying recently with a view to striking at the Palestine revolution and weakening its steadfastness in the face of the Zionist imperialist designs.

'Arafat was speaking here last night at an expanded meeting of the military, political and organizational cadres in the Fatah movement. The meeting was also attended by envoys of a number of Arab and foreign countries as well as by Fatah Central Committee members Faruq Oaddumi, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Salim az-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, Hani al-Hasan, and Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym, alias Abu Mahir.

'Arafat said that the Palestine revolution, which is fighting alongside the national Lebanese resistance a war of attrition against the Zionist enemy forces, believes more than ever that an Arab war is the only means open for the amendment and rectification of the various balances of power in the region — balances which are suffering an imbalance in favor of Zionist imperialist blustering.

Wafa reports that at the meeting 'Arafat reviewed details of the internal situation within Fatah and in the Palestinian arena. He also reviewed the topics to be placed on the agenda of the Revolutionary Council meeting which Fatah will be holding shortly. He also reviewed results of the intensive meetings held by the Fatah Central Committee during the past few days and the overall political and military situation in the light of the developments expected to take place in the region, including the outbreak of wide-scale fierce fighting due to the concentrated Israeli amassment of troops in various parts of occupied Lebanon and the mounting tension in the Al-Biq'a' area.

AFP: Salah Khalaf To Visit Moscow 1 June

NC301815 Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, May 30 (AFP)— Salah Khalaf — alias Abu Iyad — member of the Central Committee of Fatah, leading group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, is to go to Moscow on Wednesday at the invitation of Soviet leaders, he said in a press statement today.

The trip comes at a time when Fatah unity is threatened with a major split led by Fatah commander Abu Musa, apparently with the support of Syria which has recently been drawing closer to Moscow.

San'a' VOP Carries Khalaf's Remarks in Kuwait

GF301820 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Brother Abu al-Adib [Salim az-Za'nun], members of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Kuwait from Damascus yesterday evening.

Abu Iyad answered journalists' questions upon his arrival at Kuwait airport. In reply to a question on the occupation of some administrative offices in Damascus by armed elements, he said: Some elements belonging to the group exploited the absence of those working in these offices and the absence of the fida'yeen police and occupied some of the movement's administrative offices. This is not the problem because we desire that all problems within Fatah be resolved in a democratic dialogue.

Brother Abu Iyad added: When there is a problem with other organizations, we hold a dialogue with them democratically, and when they abandon the line, despite the fact that most of their demands (?are part) of Fatah's demands. [sentence as heard] But this method is alien to the movement and to the Palestinian arena. This does not mean that we will not hold a dialogue with them as we do with our brothers in other organizations. Despite the

fact that the method is condemned and wrong, we are anxious that they return to the line and remain with us in the long march which [words indistinct].

Abu Iyad said: We are facing a strong challenge. [Words indistinct] for the sake of this battle and any nonconformity with the goal of this battle, regardless of proposed things, will not be in conformity with what the Arab nation is seeking, so we must remain in the fateful battle which we know many people hesitate to say a word about it. We have to mobilize all our strength for the sake of the steadfastness battle in Syria and in Palestine for all the Arabs.

On his expectations of the next battle and its continuity and size, Brother Abu Iyad said: As for the battle, we cannot define its time and place. However, it is certain that the Zionist concentrations are increasing daily and all parties have seen the gravity of this in the past 2 weeks. There has been a concentration of two more Israeli divisions besides those already deployed. I believe that they are serious about a war to attain some of their goals. They mean to strike at Syria and the Palestinian resistance, and of course we should not forget our Lebanese nationalist brothers.

On the possibility of the return of the undisciplined group to the movement's ranks, Brother Abu Iyad said: Why do we exaggerate this issue? We have to attract the people's attention to the main battle because the issue will ultimately be settled. Why, then, do we exaggerate it? We have to keep it within proportion.

In reply to a question on the support of some Arab regimes for what took place within Fatah and the identity of these regimes, Brother Abu Iyad said: Before talking about Arab regimes, I believe we should talk about ourselves.

On how far things have gone in resolving the problem within Fatah, he said: Efforts are being made by our brothers in various Palestine organizations to reach a solution. Of course, it is certain that many parties are trying to exploit the issue. He added: All the attempts being made to settle the situation are being made within a purely Palestinian framework.

On his visit to the Soviet Union, Brother Abu Iyad said: This visit is to reach understanding with our Soviet comrades on the latest developments of the Palestinian cause. The date of the visit was set about 1 month ago.

On the Soviet role in the region, he said: The Soviet role in the region is effective, and this is clear from the political efforts being made to support Syria and the PLO.

On U.S. comments on what is going on in the Arab region and the Soviet warning about a new war, he said: They want to terrorize the region. If this region kneels down, they will continue to humiliate it. Hence, we say that the duty of the press is not to forget this great task but to forget small ones. I hope we will devote attention to major things.

Al-Wazir Says Fatah Rebellion Currently 'Frozen'

JN280819 Amman *Ar-Ra'y* in Arabic 28 May 83 p 1

[Text] Amman — In a statement to *Ar-Ra'y*, Khalil Al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that the so-called rebellion is currently frozen and that the number of those who participated in it does not exceed the number previously announced by the Fatah command.

Abu Jihad said that Fatah's Revolutionary Council will hold a session in the next few days and will adopt the appropriate decisions in this regard so that the leadership's tolerant stand up to now is not interpreted as weakness.

Abu Jihad arrived in Amman yesterday to participate in the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to bolster the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied territories, which will held during the next 2 days.

Predicts Israeli Attack

JN280829 Amman *Jordan Times* in English 28 May 83 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — Israel is mobilising its forces and to launch an attack on Palestinian and Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon's Al-Biq'a valley, deputy commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Forces Khalil al-Wazir said here Friday.

Mr. al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), who arrived here from Damascus Friday to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian Palestinian committee for the support of the steadfastness of people in the occupied territories, told the *Jordan Times* that "recent Israeli military and political moves indicate it is planning for an attack." He said that reports from Israel confirm that a general mobilisation of Israeli forces has been declared recently.

"The latest meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Knesset (the Israeli parliament), and the meeting of the Israeli leaders on Friday are part of a plan to pave the way for a new Israeli offensive," he said.

Israel, he pointed out, is using a reported Syrian military build-up and Syrian Army manoeuvres close of ceasefire lines as "a pretext to attack the Palestinian and Syrian forces in the Al-Biq'a."

On the "rebellion" among members of Fatah the largest PLO organisation to which Abu Jihad and Chairman Yasir 'Arafat belong, during the last few weeks, Abu Jihad said that the final decision on the "rebels" will be taken at a meeting of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

"The Central Committee of Fatah will submit resolutions to the Revolutionary Council which on its turn will decide how to deal with the rebels," he said.

The Revolutionary Council meeting will be held in Damascus in the next few days and members of the council have already started arriving in Damascus, Abu Jihad said.

PLO sources said in Amman Friday that mediation efforts by PLO Executive Committee members and other Palestinian organisations and leaders with the "rebels" have so far failed. They added that Dr George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), tried to mediate on Thursday but the rebels turned down his proposals.

KUNA: Attacks 'Indiscipline'

LD280904 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 28 May (KUNA) — Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, announced today that the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah movement will meet within the next 2 days to decide on the issue of the "undisciplined" group and that any decisions made will be implemented immediately. In a telephone interview with the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Watan* last night, Abu Jihad said "we cannot tolerate indiscipline, laxity and weakness and we will not accept any schism within the Fatah movement."

Abu Jihad, who is now in Amman for meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, said that the Fatah movement "regards them with tolerance and as a big brother would look on a younger brother."

He pointed out that "many are working to widen and aggravate the rift. We are dealing with them calmly now pending the issuance of decisions by the Revolutionary Council in this regard. Members of the council have actually begun to arrive at the meeting venue."

With regard to the Israeli moves, Abu Jihad said "experience has taught us that whenever the enemy plans to embark on any serious action begin meets with the leaders of the other parties, as happened yesterday. This is followed by intensive meetings and a call-up of reservists. All statements and political and information campaigns indicate that a military battle with Israel is imminent. Coordination has taken place with our brothers in Damascus in this respect. Orders have been issued to our forces to be on maximum alert and we have sent the necessary reinforcements for this purpose."

Syrian Links Noted

JN281353 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Beirut — Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has accused Syria of backing the rebellious move within Fatah. In a statement published in the Paris-based magazine *Al-Watan al-'Arabi* in Beirut today, Abu Jihad said the Palestinian leadership has ascertained that Syria's behind this move. He added that Syria had supplied the dissident leaders with 6,000 tons [as heard] of various types of arms, pointing out that a plan had been unearthed aimed at putting all the Palestinian forces in Al-Biqa' under the command of the rebellious leaders led by Abu Salih, who does not conceal his affiliation with the Syrian authorities.

Abu Jihad said: The rebellious leaders are still in control of two main bases in (?Aynat) in Al-Biqa'. He added that most of the officers and soldiers of the bases have joined the Fatah forces. He pointed out that the Fatah forces have blocked all approaches leading to these bases from Al-Biqa' direction, but the road to Damascus is still open to the rebellious central command.

QNA Reports PLO Political Department Appointment

GF280514 Doha QNA in Arabic 2012 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Amman, 17 May (QNA) — It was learned from a well-informed Palestinian source in Amman today that the PLO leadership has appointed 'Izzat Abu ar-Rabb, the official in charge of the PLO office in Amman, to an important position in the PLO Political Department. Abu ar-Rabb left Amman today to assume his new post.

Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, director general of the PLO Political Department, is the representative of the PLO Executive Committee in Jordan.

GULF AFFAIRS

YAR President Receives Visiting GCC Delegation *GF291936 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT* 29 May 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at the presidential house at 1000 today, the GCC delegation led by Ibrahim as-Subhi, assistant GCC secretary general for political affairs, which is currently visiting the republic.

During the meeting, the delegation extended the greetings of their majesties and highnesses in the GCC countries to the president. It also extended warm greetings on the occasion of his reelection as president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

The delegation also lauded the developments which the country is witnessing in various fields.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad Luqman, minister of state, secretary general of the Supreme Council for Sports and Youth, and executive director of the Supreme Council for Reconstruction.

GCC Official on Relations

GF291914 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
29 May 83

[Excerpts] Ibrahim as-Subhi, assistant GCC secretary general for political affairs, lauded the fraternal relations between the YAR and the Gulf countries. In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY and *Ath-Thawrah*, he affirmed that these relations are deeply rooted in history, are developing according to the aspirations and ambitions of the Yemeni people and the peoples of the GCC countries, and according to the aim and directions of the leadership in the YAR and leaders of the GCC countries toward strengthening cooperation in all arenas.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war and the GCC efforts to end it, Ibrahim as-Subhi stated that the council is making continuous efforts to stop the fighting between the two countries, and that there have been encouraging results. He expressed the hope that through talks and contacts the two sides will achieve a movement towards terminating this destructive war.

GCC Telecommunications Ministers Meet in Riyadh

Saudi Minister on Agenda

GF300619 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT
30 May 83

[Text] The first meeting of the posts, telephones, and telegraph ministers in GCC countries begins at the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh today.

Post, Telephones, and Telegraph Minister Alawi Darwish Kayyal has said that the aim is to link the area with a network of telecommunications and a unified postal service as well as to unify the methods and instruments in the GCC countries.

Kayyal said the ministers of posts, telephones, and telegraph will discuss in their first meeting a number of topics on their agenda. These topics include the unification of frequencies and the elimination of distortion and cochannel interference, the establishment of a kind of pattern of instruments, and the unification of tariffs.

The minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph said that the Saudi delegation will put forward a working paper on the unification of frequencies in GCC countries, a process to link the GCC countries either by a microwave network or by aerial cables.

Audience With King Fahd

LD301601 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpts] Riyadh, May 30 (SPA) — Telecommunications ministers from the six-state Gulf Cooperation Council began their first meeting here today.

The Saudi monarch received the Gulf Cooperation Council's telecommunications ministers.

The royal audience was attended by Crown Prince 'Abdallah, the first deputy premier and commander of the national guard; Dr Alwai Darwish Kayyal, posts, telephones, and telegraphs minister; and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

Meetings Conclude

GF310600 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT
31 May 83

[Text] Dr Alawi Darwish Kayyal, minister of posts, telephones, and telegraphs, has stated that the means of communications between Saudi Arabia and all the other GCC member-states are complete and operational. These communications are either via the axial cable with Kuwait or via the microwave with the UAE and Bahrain. The axial cable will go through Bahrain after the Saudi-Bahraini causeway is completed. The microwave connects us with Qatar as well. The minister added that discussion [of telecommunications] with Oman is under way.

In a speech at the end of the meetings of the first GCC conference of ministers of posts, telephones, and telegraphs yesterday, the minister affirmed that the instructions of their majesties and highnesses [the GCC leaders] always stress eliminating differences of tariffs and clearance among the GCC member-states and work toward achieving the aspirations of the region's peoples.

KUWAIT

Parliament Rejects Lebanese-Israeli Agreement

LD291212 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1036 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 29 May (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti parliament today rejected the Lebanese-Israeli agreement which the two sides recently signed under the supervision of the United States. The parliament expressed its opposition and condemnation of any interference with Lebanese sovereignty or to any action affecting its independence or territorial security.

In a statement issued by the parliament, the aforementioned agreement is considered to be a humiliating surrender document imposed on Lebanon by the Zionist enemy with the support of the United States, which the parliament said is continuing its support to this enemy in its aggression against the Arab nation.

The statement added: "In assessing the potential dangers of this agreement, not only toward the fraternal state of Lebanon, but also toward the Palestinian issue and the other Arab countries, the parliament has to express its rejection of the agreement and its opposition and condemnation of any interference with Lebanese sovereignty or any action affecting its independence, threatening its territorial security, impairing its full legitimate rights over these territories, or violating its commitments toward its fraternal Arab countries or its amicable relations with them."

Minister Comments on Lebanon, Gulf Issues

LD291757 Kuwait KUNA in English 1614 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, May 29 (KUNA) — The minister of state for cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn stated Sunday that Kuwait was following with much concern the situation in Lebanon and the Israeli build-up in the Al-Biq'a Valley in particular.

He noted that there is a sort of Israeli defiance aimed at imposing the Israeli viewpoint on the area.

Asked on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's request from Arab countries not to extend the battle area in case of the outbreak of war, the minister said, "though we appreciate President Reagan's advice to the Arab nation, we would be more obliged if he tended to lessen his support to the Arabs' enemy and stopped financial, military and moral assistance to Israel which is the tool of repeated aggression against the Arab homeland."

On the possibility of holding an Arab summit conference, the official said that Kuwait has not received anything in this connection neither from the Arab League secretary-general, Chadli Klibi nor from other parties.

About the prospects of resumption of Gulf efforts, started by Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah to explore the technical and political aspects regarding the oil slick in the Gulf waters, Minister Husayn stated that contacts were still maintained over the issue. He added that the two ministers' first visit to each of Tehran and

Baghdad has helped to establish ground "for what we hope will be the beginning of the right path towards halting this material and human drain to the two neighbour Muslim states."

The official indicated that once another step is realized, the two ministers will be ready to make every possible effort for establishment of peace and stability in the region. Husayn noted that oil was still seeping from the damaged Nowruz oilfield in view of the continued state of war between Iraq and Iran.

Husayn concluded that the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment was monitoring from its side the technical aspects of the slick and fighting the resultant pollution and asserted that if the initiative has moved to the hand of senior officials, that will not write off the organisation's role or intensive efforts made in this respect.

Crown Prince Receives PLO's Salah Khalaf

LD301530 Kuwait KUNA in English 1332 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, May 30 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad received Monday a Palestinian delegation headed by Central Committee member of the mainstream commando movement Fatah, Salah Khalaf.

The delegation grouped Fatah Central Committee member Salim az-Za'nun, director of the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Beirut Shafiq al-Hut, and director of the organization's office in Kuwait 'Awni Bittash.

Khalaf told newsmen that the meetings today with H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah and then with Shaykh as-Sabah primarily aimed at explaining the overall situation in the Lebanese Al-Biq'a Valley in the "confrontation with the Zionist enemy following the Lebanese-Israeli agreement."

The discussion further covered the Iraq-Iran war and the importance of ending that conflict, he added.

Khalaf elaborated that the latest problem within the Fatah movement and the negative results on the Arab and Palestinian peoples caused by the way it was handled was also tackled.

He said that many were "sad and scared" because of the exaggerating media coverage.

"There was a problem, but there is a political meaning behind the exaggeration," the Fatah official said, adding that the informational campaign served as a cover for the American-Israeli challenge against the Palestinian revolution and the Arab national forces.

Khalaf is expected to start an official visit to the Soviet Union on Wednesday. Meanwhile, he is scheduled to hold a press conference here Tuesday on the current Arab situation and developments on the Palestinian arena.

Brzezinski Leaves for Qatar After Informal Talks
LD291009 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0921 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 29 May (KUNA) — Former adviser to the U.S. National Security Council in the Carter administration, Zbigniew Brzezinski, left Kuwait this morning for Qatar on the second leg of his private tour of the region.

Brzezinski had conducted informal talks with deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and minister of information, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and with Foreign Under Secretary Rashid al-Rashid, and with the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, Jasim Hamad as-Saqr, concerning current and international Arab issues and developments of the situation in the region.

OMAN

Foreign Minister on Relations With USSR
GF301522 Muscat 'Uman in Arabic 29 May 83 p 5

[Report by 'Uman correspondent Muhammad as-Sa'id ar-Rayyis on a press conference held by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, on 28 May — place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] In its expansionist policies, the Soviet Union poses a great threat to the Gulf countries and their security, whether through its bases in Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa or through its massive military presence in the Indian Ocean. Are the Gulf countries aware of this threat or do some of them view this otherwise?

[Answer] Although we have not adopted a unified policy in the GCC toward the Soviet Union, it can be said there are agreed views on relations with the Soviet Union. On one occasion, the GCC countries declared that the Soviet Union is one of the world countries which should play a main role in safeguarding international security. What remains is for the Soviet Union to show its respect for peoples' will and not to interfere in small countries' internal affairs. When this is achieved, then Gulf-Soviet relations could improve. So far, we have a clear picture of the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan and in other regions neighboring the Gulf, particularly the Horn of Africa. We hope that the new Soviet leadership will adopt a more positive policy in treating these issues by withdrawing its forces and soldiers from these countries and by showing that it is a country working for peace and is contributing to easing tension in the world. Therein, we will adopt a stand other than the current one.

[Question] What is the Gulf countries' stand on the three Arab islands which Iran has occupied?

[Answer] The GCC countries consider these islands Arab and that the way to resolve the issue is through the countries that have the right to do so and through the country that is now exercising its authority over them.

[Question] There is a Soviet call to neutralize the Gulf region and make it free of nuclear weapons at a time when the Soviets are

intensifying their military presence in Afghanistan and in the Horn of Africa. What is your comment on this call?

[Answer] We rejected the call because it implied an imposition of foreign control over the Gulf countries' sovereignty. We are not the property of anyone. No one can impose conditions and restrictions on our sovereignty, independence, and will. We cannot discuss anything of this kind that undermines our ability to choose our policy, be this call Soviet or non-Soviet. Consequently, there is no way to discuss this subject, and we consider the call to neutralize the region made by the former Soviet leader, Brezhnev, in India a stillbirth.

[Question] Are there any border problems with the UAE? What about the border differences with the PDRY?

[Answer] There is no issue called a "border issue between Oman and the UAE." It is true that we have a border with the UAE because we are two neighboring countries. But the border is defined and agreed upon, and there is not any issue of this kind.

As for the issue of the border with the PDRY, there is a joint committee working to reach an agreement in this respect.

QATAR

Foreign Minister Meets With Eritrean Leader
GF301232 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Shaykh Hamad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of foreign affairs, met today with Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces, who is currently visiting Doha.

During the meeting, a general review of the Arab and international developments of the Eritrean cause was made.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Osman (Abu Bakr), representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces in the Gulf region.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd, Ministers Discuss Lebanon, PLO
LD302205 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 30 May (SPA) — After the Council of Ministers meeting, Minister of Information His Excellency 'Ali ash-Sha'ir stated to SPA: His majesty the king wished to inform the council of the latest political and security development on the Lebanese arena and what our endeavors and efforts have achieved.

At the beginning of the session the council listened to a quick resume from Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal which included the most important new developments in that sphere. He was followed by his excellency the minister of information who gave a briefing which included the most signifi-

cant events and the information reported by Arab and international media pertaining to the Lebanese and Palestinian issues.

His excellency added that afterward, the Council of Ministers listened to his majesty the exalted king who gave a comprehensive and detailed review and explained the stages of the Arab issues and the situation relating to the issues of the hour on the basis of the Arab reality.

His majesty also expressed his great concern over the disagreements between the groups of the Palestinian resistance who, along with their Syrian brothers, are confronting the enemy who is lying in wait and who benefits from these differences. He hoped that the resistance leaders from all the group would hasten to discard their differences, close their ranks, and clear the air in order to confront the fateful challenges in the history of both the Palestinian and Arab issue from the viewpoint of their Arab, Palestinian, and Islamic responsibilities.

His majesty affirmed the eagerness of the Kingdom to continue in its efforts and to intensify its contacts with its brothers in the Arab capitals in order to arrive at a common approach to finding solutions and an immediate way out of the current crises which prevail in more than one field.

Nepalese Envoy Arrives With Message for King

LD290935 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0840 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Jidda, 29 May (SPA) — Prince Birendra Bir Bikram, brother of the king of Nepal, arrived this morning in Riyadh on a visit to the Kingdom. During his visit he will give King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a message from the king of Nepal.

Awaiting his arrival were His Royal Highness Prince Sattam ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the deputy governor of Riyadh, and a number of high-ranking officials.

Prince Birendra Bir Bikram is accompanied by a delegation which includes Minister of Foreign Affairs Padma Bahadur Khatri.

Received by King Fahd

LD301052 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1010 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Riyadh, 30 May (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received today, in his office at Al-Madhar Palace, Prince Birendra Bir Bikram, brother of the king of Nepal, who handed his majesty a message from the king of Nepal. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and commander of the National Guard. Prince Birendra arrived in Riyadh yesterday for a visit lasting several days.

Fahd Receives Message From Tunisian President

LD291059 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1035 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Riyadh, 29 May (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his office in the Royal Court at 1300

Tunisian Planning and Finance Minister Mansour Moalla, who handed His majesty a handwritten message from President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and chairman of the National Guard; Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl; and Tunisian Ambassador to the Kingdom Kacem Bousnina.

Fahd Cables Congratulations to Yugoslav President

GF291618 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent a congratulatory cable to Mika Spiljak, president of the state presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on his election as president of the Yugoslav Republic.

In his cable his majesty the king expressed his heartfelt wishes and sincerest congratulations to the Yugoslav president and for the continued success and progress of the friendly Yugoslav people.

Foreign Minister Confers With Indian Counterpart

LD291025 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Riyadh, 29 May (SPA) — Before noon today His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, conferred with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs A.A. Rahim, who arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

A number of international issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

Further on Meeting

BK291425 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] India and Saudi Arabia called for immediate steps to defuse tension in Lebanon as it poses a serious threat to peace in West Asia. During their hour-long meeting in Riyadh, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Rahim, and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, agreed that peace in the region depends on finding solution to the basic problems.

Mr Rahim arrived in Saudi Arabia today after his 3-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. Earlier in an interview to UNITED NEWS OF INDIA in Dubayy, Mr Rahim hoped that the peaceful solution to the Iran-Iraq war will soon emerge.

LNG Deliveries Reportedly To Be Maintained

NC301824 Paris AFP in English 1755 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Nicosia, May 30 (AFP) — The Saudi oil company Petromin intends to meet 90 percent of its contracted deliveries of

liquefied natural gas (LNG) by the end of the year despite recent production cuts, the company asserted here today.

Petromin Governor 'Abd al-Hadi Tahir said in an interview with the weekly *Middle Eastern Economic Survey (MEES)* that the firm intended to make up export shortfalls caused by the drop in LNG output resulting from oil production cuts.

MEES added that at the end of last year Petromin had five-year contracts with 40 clients to supply 8.4 million tons of LNG a year, but that deliveries had slowed down early this year.

Referring to the Saudi attitude towards the spot (non-contract oil and gas market), *MEES* quoted Dr Tahir as saying that Petromin intended to keep its prices below those on the spot market.

"We chose to maintain a price which is lower and hopefully competitive with those of alternative fuels and help create long-term stability and certainty with regard to Saudi LNG supplies," he added.

Petromin recently put up its LNG prices from 10 to 20 dollars a ton — still well below the current spot price of 31 dollars, *MEES* said.

Dr Tahir dismissed as "absolute nonsense" reports that building had stopped at the Red Sea refinery of Rabiyyah. He said that construction of the refinery, due to have a capacity of 325,000 barrels a day from 1985, was on schedule.

UAE

Indian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit 28 May
GF280837 Doha QNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Dubayy, 28 May (QNA) — A.A. Rahim, Indian minister of state for external affairs, left Dubayy International Airport for Saudi Arabia early this morning after a 3-day official visit to the UAE, during which he held talks with Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, on the efforts being exerted to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and the role of the Non-aligned Movement in supporting these efforts, in addition to the developments of the Middle East crisis and bilateral relations.

Mubarak Message to Arab Journalists' Conference
NC281618 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has once again called for the need to decisively contain differences kindling among the Arab states because it is a serious phenomenon threatening the unity of their national entity.

In a message he addressed to the seventh Arab journalists' federation conference, which opened here today, the president stressed that there can be no real contradiction between the Arab states' interests and concerns and that the natural situation is for these states to stand as one man defending common interests and principles so that a foundation can be built on which to raise high the edifice of Arabism to inspire future generations.

In his message President Mubarak warned that the Arab nation is at a turning point in its history. He said that while before we used to face only one problem, namely the Arab-Israeli conflict, we are now facing various questions drawing us away from concentrating our efforts on basic issues. The president also stressed the need for deepening democracy throughout the Arab homeland because it is the pillar of national renaissance and the corner stone for building and progress.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's message to the Arab journalists federation, which was delivered by Salah Jalal, chairman of the Egyptian Journalists Association and head of the Egyptian delegation to the conference:

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful. Mr Chairman of the Arab journalists federation, members of the delegations participating in the conference: I am pleased to address you, through this message to your conference, as brothers over whom the banners of Arabism are flying; common goals for the future bring us together. We are inspired by the hopes for a better society among all Arab peoples and for a bright future in which freedom, justice, and peace will prevail and in which the signs of exploitation, aggression, and domination will disappear. Likewise we hope that through the struggle of men of letters and thought an acceptable balance will be achieved among rights, duties, and interests so that we may set, through true democracy and freedom, the bases for our coming generations to march toward broader horizons.

On this occasion you and I are entitled to express our thanks and appreciation to fraternal Iraq — its leadership, government, and people — for hosting your respected conference.

The writers are the ones who carry the most honorable message and the most noble responsibility — the message and responsibility of the word. By the pen and the word, they express the real pulse of the Arab masses' hopes and sentiments. They are the ones who actually undertake to formulate the Arab personality in all they write, be it a news report, an opinion, an analysis, or a commentary. Since their message is so magnificent it is not strange to emphasize that we and they equally carry on our shoulders the responsibility of our Arab nation's present and future. On the basis of Egypt's unshakable belief in its affiliation to and destiny with Arabism, it has had the honor of accommodating your Arab union since its inception in 1964. Ever since

the union was formed and for 15 years, Egypt has hosted with pride your union's bureau in Cairo. Since Egypt has and will continue to open its arms and heart to the Arab brothers, your union's bureau will continue to be present in the Egyptian journalists' association with love, amity, and appreciation.

Allow me to join you in an attempt to discover the requirements of the phase through which our nation is passing in its struggle for its existence, entity, and independence. Maybe you will agree with me that foremost of the national goals we — the governments and peoples — are seeking to achieve is to deepen democracy in all parts of our Arab homeland in view of the fact that it is the pillar of national development and the foundation stone of construction and advancement. Let us all agree that the essence of democracy is freedom — freedom for the people — freedom which makes democracy an effective means of decisionmaking by the majority, and for expanding popular participation in deciding general policy, in steering the government in the interest of the great majority of the people, in giving the minority the opportunity to express its views and participate in the planning of policy, and in respecting the liberties and the basic rights of individuals and groups, in equality before the law. This is your real role and your sacred message as thinkers and well-informed persons whose depth of discernment and capability of thinking have been acknowledged, particularly since your strong link with the masses enables you to make dynamic and effective moves. These moves are no less important than those of the governments and the official organs in shouldering the responsibility of continuing the march of construction and advancement under freedom and democracy.

Perhaps you will agree with me when I attribute our current state of affair to a grave phenomenon that will continue to threaten the unity of our national entity and the cohesion of our front if we do not contain it with firmness and strength. This phenomenon is represented in the growth of differences among the Arab states despite the fact that there should not be any real contradictions between the interests and concerns of these states. The natural situation should be that these states stand as one man defending the same fateful common interests and principles, on the basis of our affiliation to Arabism and to our vast homeland, so as to found a constitution whose lessons will inspire our future generations. The edifice of Arabism will rise high as it once had been a beacon for science and knowledge and a copious spiritual heritage in which the most noble, heavenly, and humanitarian values were embodied.

I need not draw your attention to the fact that our Arab nation is these days passing through a serious turning point in its history. While before we were facing one problem, namely the Arab-Israeli conflict, we are now facing various questions drawing us away from concentrating our efforts on our basic issues. Your meeting today in Baghdad takes place a few miles away from a war which is futile and which is only shedding blood and wasting resources and energy without justification or purpose.

While welcoming the Iraqi people's steadfastness and their defying death in defending their territory under their wise leadership, we express our full eagerness for the safety of the Iranian people and their right to a free and secure life. The two peoples have throughout history been linked by the closest relations and

deepest ties and one cannot imagine that real conflicting interests exist between them and any Arab people, because what exists between us is stronger than time can destroy.

Likewise, your meeting in Baghdad today takes place dozens of miles away from an area where grave aggression took place against the sovereignty and destiny of a fraternal Arab state — Lebanon. It is right that you and we should place all our resources behind the struggle of its leadership and people in the difficult ordeal they are passing through to liberate their territory from foreign occupation, to exercise their complete sovereignty, and to enjoy their independence, just as other nations and peoples, and to be able to devote themselves to confronting the challenges of development and reconstruction.

Let us overcome the many other problems threatening the present and future of our Arab homeland to arrive at our main question, namely the Palestine question. The situation is serious and difficult. Our Palestinian Arab people, who are living under occupation, are being exposed to the danger of extermination, dispersion, and loss of identity. The Palestinian territory is being exposed to the danger of settlements, domination, and to the expulsion of its original people. Our pan-Arab and historical duty dictates to us the need for exploiting the current momentum beginning with the settlement of the Palestine question. We should not allow ourselves to be drawn into argument and debate over the means to achieve the goal. Our responsibility today is such that no one can exclude himself from it or evade confronting it.

Brothers, our Arab nation calls on us and on you to consolidate its structure and raise its pillars with all our power. The fate and future of our coming Arab generations is a trust by us. Let us unite our voice and let us join hands to raise the standing and glory of our Arab homeland.

Proceed with God's blessings. May God protect you. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Mubarak Cables Jordan's Husayn on National Day
NC291144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following congratulatory cable to His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the occasion marking the independence anniversary and Jordanian Army day:

On the occasion of celebrating the independence anniversary and the Jordanian Army day, I am pleased to send to your majesty sincerest heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for your good health, happiness, and success. On this happy occasion I wish the fraternal Jordanian people continued progress and prosperity under your wise leadership. I pray to God almighty to unite our Arab nation under one stand to confront the challenges impeding its progress in the interest and security of the steadfast Arab people. With my highest fraternal esteem and appreciation.

Mubarak Messages to Williamsburg Participants
NC271430 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz said that President Husni Mubarak has addressed important messages to the heads of states and governments who will participate at the summit conference of the seven industrial states to be held tomorrow in Williamsburg to discuss important economic, political, and international questions.

Dr al-Baz said that due to the importance of the Williamsburg summit conference and the topics to be discussed, the president focused in his messages on two questions: 1) The issues connected with international economic cooperation and the need for a new economic system compatible with the changing international circumstances and the increasing needs of the developing countries; 2) The situation in the Middle East, the urgent need for achieving the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, and the reactivation of the comprehensive peace efforts by resolving the Palestine problem in a manner that will safeguard the Palestinian people's rights and consolidate the question of peace and coexistence between Israel and all Arab parties.

'Ali Interview With AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI
NC281930 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Paris, 28 May (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has given an interview to the Paris Arabic language newspaper *Al-Watan al-'Arabi* in which he dealt with the current Arab questions, foremost being the Lebanese problem, and efforts to solve the Middle East problem, and the Gulf war.

On Egypt's stand on the Arab League, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We in Egypt expect that the Arab banners will, at the appropriate time, be raised on the Arab League building in Cairo. He added: Egypt has neither forgotten its role in establishing the Arab League nor that it still hosts its headquarters. He pointed out that the economic and regional groupings about which there is talk at present in the Arab world constitute an addition and strength to the league.

On whether the United States alone can shoulder the responsibility of establishing peace in the Middle East during the delicate and complicated phase through which it is passing, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The United States is not the only country working for the establishment of peace. We are also working to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict. Moreover, the regional parties that are currently involved in the arena must also shoulder their responsibilities. He added: Ever since operations in Lebanon began Egypt emphasized the importance of solving the Lebanese crisis to ascertain the credibility of the United States on the one hand and Israeli intentions on the other and to make it possible to move after that toward a Palestinian solution. He said that the United States has exerted efforts and what remains is for the Arab sides to help it drive the peace march forward to prevent the Israeli side from achieving additional gains in U.S. relations at the Arab nation's expense.

On the possibility of guaranteeing the security of Syria and that of the other Arab states under the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: The agreement stipulates that neither of the two countries should attempt to use the territory of the other for attacking a third country.

His excellency expressed the belief that the Lebanese negotiator had insisted on this paragraph to protect Syrian security from any designs Israel may be preparing against Syria.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed the hope that Iraq and Iran will agree on a cease-fire and initiate efforts for solving the differences between them because the war is merely exhausting their resources and capabilities.

On whether there is an inclination to restore diplomatic relations between Egypt and Lebanon, 'Ali said: The matter depends on Lebanon. We shall respond to any request by any Arab side for the restoration of relations. We also understand the circumstances in whose framework Lebanon is currently moving and we shall help it in overcoming them.

The foreign minister explained that contacts are continuing with Saudi Arabia and that there were no obstacles in this regard.

On the U.S. decision to supply F-16's to Israel, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Egypt continually emphasizes to the United States that it should not arm Israel in a way that would lead to its superiority over the Arab states or encourage it to attack the Arabs. He added: Emphasis is also made on Egypt's right to obtain all the advanced weapons that would enable it to defend itself and shoulder its responsibilities within its historic and geographic framework.

Replying to a question about the pressures that are being exerted on Greece by the European Community to establish diplomatic relations with Israel at a time when Israel is still occupying Arab lands, the foreign minister said: The Greek Government replied to this stand by saying that the right of establishing diplomatic relations between Greece and any state was a sovereign right for Greece alone.

On the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv and the resumption of the Tabah talks Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We have said many times that the Egyptian ambassador will return to Israel when all the justifications which necessitated his recall have been removed. We have demanded an agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon according to a guaranteed timetable.

Regarding the Tabah talks, 'Ali said: There are consultations between us and the Americans to agree on a date and venue for the next meeting to resume discussing temporary measures to be taken in the disputed area as well as reconciliation and arbitration measures.

Ghali Requests EC Mideast Envoy, U.S. Patience
NC271825 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT
 27 May 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has suggested that the EC states send a special envoy to the Middle East similar to U.S. envoy Philip Habib to help bring about peace in the area. Ghali expressed the belief that Europe can assume a major role in the delicate negotiations to achieve the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

In an interview with the French newspaper *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Dr Ghali called on the United States to be patient with Syria just as it was with Israel so as to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

MENA Report on Interview
NC271858 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has called on the United States to be patient with Syria.

In an interview published today in the French magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Dr Ghali said that the Americans have been very patient with Israel, pointing out that the negotiations to urge the Begin government to sign the agreement with the Lebanese Government on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon lasted 10 months.

Dr Ghali wondered why they are showing such impatience with Syria.

Concerning the EC role, Dr Ghali asked why Europe has been satisfied with supporting the United States and staying on the sidelines of the current efforts for establishing peace in the Middle East?

He said that France, in particular, which has not adopted a stand in line with either the Soviet Union or the United States and which maintains good traditional relations with Lebanon and Syria, is in a better position to enable it to make Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad listen to the "voice of wisdom."

Dr Ghali said that the EC should choose a French envoy similar to Philip Habib to go to Damascus and Beirut offer the necessary help to the U.S. peace mission.

Dr Ghali spoke to the magazine about Egypt's independence and its international relations, affirming that Egypt has never before been more independent.

He said that the United States is certainly our principal ally, but not our only ally. We have signed agreements with France to establish the first two nuclear power plants and to modernize the telephone network.

Egypt also participated with France in sponsoring a joint draft resolution on Lebanon at the UN Security Council.

Dr Ghali noted that Egypt has also concluded agreements with Japan to widen the Suez Canal. He also pointed out that Egypt has intensified its exchanges with China and has close relations with the Third World countries in general.

Dr Ghali described Egyptian-Soviet relations as completely normal, noting that there is a Soviet Embassy in Cairo and an Egyptian Embassy in Moscow and that the two countries will exchange ambassadors in a few months.

Concerning the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, Dr Ghali said that this is contingent on a definite timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Cabinet Discusses Lebanon, Middle East Issues

NC301244 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] At its meeting that lasted until late last night under Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, the Cabinet reviewed the Egyptian efforts to achieve the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali reviewed the international situation and Middle East developments in light of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the Syrian-Israeli escalation, and the Arab stance to contain the situation, as well as the superpowers' position on this issue.

Nile Valley Parliament Calls for African Unity

NC282100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (MENA) — The Nile Valley Parliament has called on the African peoples and governments to renounce their differences and divisions and to seek the unification of efforts and close the ranks on a solid African unity based on equality and justice to achieve the African peoples' aspirations.

In a statement issued today on the 20th anniversary of the OAU, the Nile Valley Parliament, presently meeting in Khartoum, affirmed its solidarity and support for the Namibian liberation movement and its support for the African people in South Africa against apartheid and colonialism.

The statement notes that Egypt's and Sudan's experiment in unitary action, their cohesion in a single parliament, and their support of all African liberation movements represents a good example along the road to integration, unity, and prosperity among the continent's peoples.

MENA Reports on Parliament

NC292108 Cairo MENA in English 1945 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, May 28 (MENA) — Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker and alternate Speaker of the Nile Valley Parliament Dr Sufi Abu Talib said that the parliament will recommend that

feasibility studies for joint projects be accelerated so that international institutions which offered to finance such projects can begin implementing them.

Dr Abu Talib said that the parliament will approve several new projects prior to implementing them.

Meanwhile, the parliament's political integration, national security and foreign relations committee met under its chairman Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Hay who later stated that the meeting discussed in detail a diplomatic coordination plan between Egypt and Sudan, ways and means of implementing it and promotion of integration on world forums as an added strength for Africa and the Arabs.

He said the most important recommendation to be adopted by the Nile Valley Parliament will be one calling for coordination on international forums, and in Arab parliaments.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak who attended the committee's meeting said it has been decided to unify the administrative systems of the Egyptian and Sudanese Foreign Ministries in order to achieve the necessary coordination, especially in the field of international conferences.

He said the foreign policy stands of the two countries have the same thrust, namely to refrain from interfering in the affairs of others and not to allow others to interfere in their affairs.

Minister Mubarak said that all matters related to coordination between the two countries on world forums and within the OAU have been discussed during his recent meeting with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, as well as meetings last week in Khartoum between officials of the Foreign Ministries.

Concluding, Minister Mubarak stressed the importance of Arab solidarity in the present juncture.

SLP Rejects Lebanese-Israeli Agreement

PM271048 Cairo Ash-Sha'b in Arabic 24 May 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "We Reject the Lebanese-Israeli Agreement"]

[Text] At a meeting it held on 22 May 1983, the Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] discussed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and its supplements published in the press. The discussion was held within the context of the common Arab security requirements for all the Arab states, including Egypt, solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people, and eagerness to defend the Arab nation against Zionist threats and ambitions.

The party notes the following:

1. The Lebanese-Israeli agreement is not so much an agreement providing for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces as it is an agreement legalizing a situation dictated by Israel from a position of strength with the support of the United States, which

participated in drafting the agreement. There will be no complete withdrawal under this agreement. There will be joint Lebanese-Israeli patrols in southern Lebanon, and these patrols will replace the UN forces deployed there in accordance with a Security Council resolution passed before the Israeli invasion.

2. Since this agreement makes the withdrawal of the Israeli forces conditional on a withdrawal of the Syrian forces, which are in Lebanon in accordance with an Arab League decision, the United States should have compelled its ally Israel to withdraw from the Syrian Golan Heights in accordance with the numerous resolutions issued by the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

3. The same principle applies to the Palestinian resistance forces deployed in Al-Biqa' in implementation of the 1970 Cairo agreement between the Lebanese Government and the PLO regulating the presence of the Palestinian forces in Lebanese territory. It was the duty of the United States to work for a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem before insisting on the withdrawal of these forces from Lebanon without providing adequate guarantees for the safety of the Palestinian civilians in Lebanon so that they are not subjected to new massacres similar to the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

4. The agreement includes provisions which are prejudicial to Lebanese sovereignty and which undermine the Lebanese Government's right to exercise its legitimate authority. This is demonstrated by the appointment of a dissident Lebanese Army officer as a military command assistant in southern Lebanon.

5. The agreement violates the Arab League Charter because it is a separate agreement with Israel, because it abolishes the law providing for the boycott of Israel and because it allows Israeli goods and products to flood the Lebanese market, with the possibility of these goods finding their way to other Arab countries.

The SLP believes that the complete Arab silence about this situation is bound to perpetuate Israeli aggression against the Arab states and to enable Israel to reap the fruit of this aggression through unequal negotiations leading to more Israeli intransigence and encouraging Israel to commit further aggression against other Arab countries.

The party supports the Lebanese nationalist movement's opposition to the agreement and calls on all nationalist forces in the Arab world to support the fraternal Lebanese people in their bid to safeguard their full sovereignty over their territory and to support the Lebanese Government's exercise of this sovereignty. It urges continuous support for the Palestinian resistance under PLO leadership.

The United States must bear full responsibility for its complete and continuous alignment with Israel, which is a policy detrimental to U.S. interests throughout the Arab homeland and which is a threat to peace.

Syrian, Israeli Stands on Lebanon Deemed Similar
NC271324 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 27 May 83

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has warned Syria that Israel is watching with concern Syrian military movements in eastern Lebanon and is taking all necessary precautions. This comes at a time when it is reiterated that tension is escalating between the Syrian and Israeli sides in the Al-Biqa' and that war may break out between them at any moment.

However, we do not believe that this is likely and that any possible clash between the two sides would go beyond the current area of conflict, because their strategy in Lebanon is close and similar and neither of them desires to engage the other in an all-out war.

Israel and Syria may appear as adopting contradictory positions through their declared stances. Israel has signed an agreement with Lebanon on the foreign forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, but Syria refused to support this agreement and affirmed that it will not yield to any pressures to change this stand. If we note that Israel made its forces' withdrawal from Lebanon conditional on the Syrian and Palestinian forces' withdrawal, we can observe that Syria's insistence on rejecting the Israeli-Lebanese agreement will lead to the continued presence of foreign forces in Lebanon.

Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has called for an Arab summit conference to clarify his country's stand on the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. We sympathize with the Lebanese president, because his country's independence became dependent upon the Arab stance, which so far has not gone beyond a verbal reaction to every action hostile to Arab interests. Consequently, the Arab rights, including the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, are lost.

We believe that claims about the possibility of war breaking out between Syria and Israel are misleading in order to cover up covert and ill intentions toward Lebanon. We know that both Syria and Israel do not desire war. Why should they fight in Lebanese territory, where their objectives are similar? The Syrian forces have spent 7 years in Lebanon under the name of the ADF, which are supposed to receive orders from the Lebanese president. However, these forces' refusal to withdraw from Lebanon gives Israel a pretext to maintain its forces in Lebanon. Israeli occupation of Lebanon is about 1-year-old now. We say this with much regret. If the situation remains unchanged, Lebanon remains an arena for plotting and ambitions, and the Arab stance remains absent from the arena, then the Israeli occupation of Lebanon will continue for years to come. The liberation of Lebanon and the other occupied Arab territories will thus become a sacred duty for the coming Arab generations.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Border Issue

JN272054 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT
27 May 83

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has made the following statement to INA: The Iraqi Foreign Ministry would like to stress that the competent Iraqi authorities had advance knowledge of the operations the Turkish Armed Forces carried out in the joint border region. They had also granted their approval to the competent Turkish authorities to cross our borders for a distance not exceeding 5 km and for a short period of time if this were deemed necessary by the operation in case of extreme urgency.

Today the Turkish Foreign Ministry announced that Turkish Armed Forces' units chased some outlawed armed groups, which have recently begun to disturb peace in the Iraqi-Turkish border region. A Turkish statement said that these groups intended to continue this movement and to find refuge on Turkish soil for a long time.

The statement added that the Turkish Government has held talks on this subject with neighboring and friendly Iraq. It said some limited military movements took place in order to restore security to the areas in the vicinity of the Iraqi borders, where those bandits were chased. The Turkish statement added that those outlaws conducted all kinds of smuggling in the area, threatened the citizens in the border areas, robbed them of their money, and coerced them.

These outlawed armed groups also opened fire on the Turkish military units, killing or wounding some Turkish soldiers.

Turkish Foreign Minister Gives Note to President

JN291552 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn today received a written message from Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with the spheres of bilateral cooperation and the situation in the region in general. Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen delivered the message when the president received him here today.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im, director of the Presidential Office; and the Turkish ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

The Turkish minister arrived in Baghdad earlier today.

Leaves Baghdad 30 May

JN301402 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1357 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA) — Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen left Baghdad for home today at the end of a 2-day visit, during which he handed President Saddam Husayn a written message from Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with bilateral relations and the situation in the region in general.

Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan on Turkish Incursion

JN291628 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan
in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Dear listeners to the Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan, sons of our great Iraqi people, steadfast masses of Iraqi Kurdistan: The hostile stands and activities of the Turkish junta's regime on the Iraqi-Turkish border and the occupation of certain strategic points in the precious land of Iraq by the Turkish Armed Forces are all part of a vicious plot by the front of world imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism. This plot against our people and homeland is aimed at striking at and terminating the Kurdish liberation movement and the Iraqi nationalist movement.

We draw the attention of the devout among the sons of our Iraqi people and all friends in the region and the world that our Iraqi Democratic National Front-JUD [JUD is Arabic acronym for Democratic National Front] will issue an important statement on this occasion.

[Signed] The Iraqi Democratic National Front-JUD. 29 May 1983

DPK 'Explanation' on Incursion

JN291808 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan
in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 May 83

["An explanation" by the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq of the Turkish incursion into Iraq, issued on 29 May 1983 — read by announcer]

[Text] For 9 days large numbers of the Armed Forces of the Turkish junta's regime have been massing along the Iraqi-Turkish border. These forces crossed the border and occupied Iraqi territory at several points.

This Turkish incursion is a violation of all international and human laws and norms. Although the alleged excuse which the Turkish junta's regime used in this hostile act against us is that it wanted to adjust the border and apply the bilateral security agreement with the Iraqi regime to insure peace and stability in the region, the truth is that this act is an important and serious part of a wider plot by world imperialism to terminate the Kurdish liberation movement and the Iraqi democratic nationalist movement. This act is a continuation of what traitor Jalal Talabani and his clique did during the first phase of the plot, when they antagonized the partners in the Iraqi Democratic National Front-JUD and attacked the front's bases and offices through their exposed cooperation with the 'Aflaqite regime and its allies and agents.

This dirty plot by U.S. imperialism and its allies against our people reminds us of a similar imperialist plot 20 years ago. At that time, the CENTO regimes cooperated with the reactionary regimes in the region, including the racist fascist regime which was then in power in Iraq, to crush the great July national revolution. The position taken by (Ibrahim Ahmad) and Jalal Talabani in that CENTO plot was that they would not move to foil the plot but would watch the development of events. They were, in fact, hoping to fulfill the dreams of their overlords. In

those critical days, our heroic Kurdish people, led by our party and the immortal Barzani, stood against and foiled the plot of the enemies. We will not forget here the stands taken by the governments of the socialist bloc countries, nationalist forces, progressive regimes and peace-loving peoples in the region and the world, especially the USSR, to foil the aforementioned plot. They vehemently demanded the dissolution of CENTO and condemned its hostile plot against the Kurdish liberation movement.

Today, our party, under the leadership of comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani, and the other partners in the Iraqi Democratic National Front-JUD renew the pledge to our great people — Arabs, Kurds and ethnic minorities — to pursue the progressive revolutionary line, not to succumb to any pressure from whatever source, and to struggle with all the means in their power to foil this vicious plot by the world imperialist front.

On this occasion, we appeal to the steadfast masses of our Iraqi people to give every assistance to the forces of the Iraqi Democratic National Front-JUD and to side with the heroic Peshmerga and partisans [al-ansar]. We also appeal to all parties, progressive forces and peace-loving peoples in the region and the world to expose this serious plot by imperialism and its allies and to support our people in their new tribulation to force the Turkish junta's regime to change its position, refrain from these hostile acts and withdraw completely from Iraqi territory. We call upon all our friends to support our people's just struggle to overthrow the racist 'Aflaqite regime and to achieve democracy for Iraq and true autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan.

We (?assure) you that through the (?alertness) of the revolutionary, nationalist and progressive forces in the country and the assistance and solidarity of the world revolutionary movement we will bury this wider plot and triumph over the enemies.

[Signed] The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] in Iraq. 29 May 1983

'Progressive Forces' Urged To Denounce Invasion

JN301903 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan
in Arabic 1610 GMT 30 May 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Progressive Forces in the Middle East and the World Are Called Upon To Support Our Iraqi People's Struggle to Repulse Turkish Aggression"]

[Text] A sharp, violent conflict took place in recent weeks between the forces of national liberation in the region and world imperialism and its reactionary agent regimes in the Middle East.

Progressive political parties and forces in the region have been the target of fierce attacks, including armed attacks, against the headquarters of these parties and forces, with the direct support and assistance of the agents of imperialism, the corrupt regimes in the region. The storming of the headquarters of the Iraqi Democratic National Front-JUD on 6 June [word indistinct] as a confirmation of this [word indistinct]. The Iraqi national movement, which at present constitutes an important part of the

national liberation movement in the region struggling against imperialism, lost scores of strugglers, sons of the great Iraqi people — Arabs, Kurds, and minorities. This movement also lost a considerable quantity of weapons and munitions, which are an important asset for any armed struggle.

On the other hand, some observers believe [word indistinct] military attempts to solve the current problems in the region have proved to be futile, if not harmful, that calmness and quiet must be achieved on the military level, and that work must be carried out through other useful means. There are imperialist pressures on the forces of liberation and progress in the region; namely, steadfast Syria, the Palestinian movement, the Kurdish liberation movement, and the Iraqi national movement after Lebanon was removed from the arena as a result of its agreement with the Zionist enemy, after the negative developments witnessed by the Palestinian liberation movement in the wake of the Fes summit, and after the Jordanian-Palestinian talks to grant authorization to the Jordanian monarch, who is the docile tool of British colonialism and who won many medals and rewards from the British and the Americans like his grandfather.

All these imperialist-reactionary attempts sought to weaken the national liberation movement in the region prior to liquidating it. Western media are preparing the suitable atmosphere to peddle this vile conspiracy in the region.

Amid these developments, imperialist quarters and some of the agents and midgets in the region came to believe that the only threat to them was that of the armed Kurdish revolution, allied with the forces and countries of liberation in the region and the world. That's why imperialism has incited its agents and tools in the region to strike at and suppress this revolutionary movement. The first move within this conspiracy was carried out by the suspect comamnd of the so-called Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The second move was carried out by the fascist junta in Turkey, when it amassed large force on the Iraqi-Turkish borders, with the participation of units from the U.S. rapid deployment forces and its commander in Turkey, to strike at the Kurdish revolution.

The encroachment of the forces of the fascist junta in Turkey on Iraqi territory takes place under trivial pretexts in the sight of the traitor rulers in Baghdad, if not with their complete agreement, to strike and occupy JUD's positions.

This shameful course by the Baghdad rulers is proof of their cowardice [words indistinct] against the Iraqi people. What can the Baghdad rulers say after their announcement that the Turks entered Iraq with their accord? Will they say that they are [word indistinct] as they claim they are doing in their dirty war against neighbor Iran? Everyone knows that the fascist regime fell to its knees before the moribund shah in 1975 and relinquished Iraqi territory. It is not strange that this regime now calls for Turkish intervention, as long as the objective is the same, that of maintaining the 'Aflaqites in power.

We call on all national, progressive forces in the Arab countries and the Middle East and on revolutionary, progressive, and friendly countries to oppose and denounce these Turkish encroachments, to call on the Turkish regime to withdraw its military forces from Iraqi territory immediately, and to expose

the traitor Baghdad rulers who are shedding crocodile tears for Iraqi territory by means of their information organs in their criminal war against neighbor Iran. We wonder: Are Kurdish citizens, the targets of the Turkish invasion, not Iraqi citizens? Is the land which has been occupied by Turkey not Iraqi territory? We must not be surprised if the fascist regime, which has maintained silence at the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the aggression against the Palestinian movement, the occupation of Beirut, and the perpetration of the Sabra and Shatila massacres remains silent and does nothing about the Turkish invasion of Iraqi territory, especially since the 'Aflaqites are the enemies of our people and homeland.

As we have always announced, we are against escalating tension in the region [words indistinct]. This does not mean that we must maintain silence at the Turkish intervention and the occupation of some areas of our country. While we strongly denounce the Turkish encroachments on our territory, we appeal to all the progressive forces and countries in the region and the world to stand at the side of the Iraqi people and their militant forces [word indistinct] to expel the Turkish invaders, topple the fascist Turkish regime which is the cause of all the tragedies, and establish a real national democratic regime under which our Kurdish people enjoy real autonomy.

Communique on 26-27 May War Actions

JN271532 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA) — During the last 24 hours the Iraqi forces killed eight Iranians: Six in the area east of Basra and two in the northern sector. An Iraqi military communique issued here today added that the Iranian forces also lost one hardware stockpile in the central sector of the battlefield. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,104 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our heroic armed forces are continuing their valiant defense of Iraq's great people, towns, and borders. The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy troops opposite our positions east of Basra, killing six and forcing the others to flee.
2. Two were killed in the northern sector of the battlefield.
3. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

Today the evil Khomeyniite regime shelled Mandali and its suburbs and Zurbatiyah with artillery, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 May 1983

Communique Updates War Operations Results

JN281616 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 May 83

[Communique No 1,105 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 28 May 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of Iraq's lofty land and of the steadfast Iraqi people, our Armed Forces continued their activities in the operational sectors against the racist Khomeyniites. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. A force of our forward units raided enemy positions in the central operational sector, killing 14, wounding others, and seizing a number of serviceable medium-and light-caliber arms.
2. Four were killed in the Mayasan operational sector.
3. Two were killed and one tank, and two vehicles carrying personnel destroyed east of Basra.
4. Two vehicles, one 106-mm gun, one hardware stockpile, and three infantry positions — killing all personnel — were destroyed in the northern operational sector.
5. The despicable Iranian regime today shelled Basra and its environs as well as Zurbatiyah, leaving two civilians martyred in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 May 1983

Communique on 28-29 May War Actions

JN291620 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 83

[Communique No 1,106 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 29 May 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The forces of our audacious Army are continuing their valiant activities in the operational sectors so that Iraq will remain strong and its people and land will be kept aloof from the Khomeyniite evil, harm, and aggression. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened fire on an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing two and destroying two vehicles. Our combat patrols found a quantity of serviceable medium and light weapons as well as various equipment and hardware which the enemy left behind after the immortal At-Tib and Fakkeh battles in the same sector. These weapons were evacuated to the rear.
2. One was killed in the area east of Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 May 1983

Communique on Destruction of Naval Target*JN301602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 30 May 83*

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA) — Iraqi aircraft today destroyed a large Iranian naval target in the northern Arab Gulf. This was stated by Iraqi Military Communique No 1,107 issued here tonight. The communique added that, during the past 24 hours, the Iranian forces sustained 5 killed and 3 observation posts and 1 infantry position destroyed. It said that the Iranians shelled Zurbatiyah and Ash-Shihabi, damaging some civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,107 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces, while continuing their activities against the criminal enemy forces, reaffirm their ability to inflict further ground, sea, and air losses on these forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A large enemy naval target was discovered in the northern Arab Gulf this morning. Our capable Air Force aircraft attacked it, scoring direct, effective hits. Our brave pilots saw columns of smoke billowing from the attacked target and all our aircraft returned safely to base after carrying out their mission accurately and successfully, thanks be to God.
2. One of our forward units opened fire on a number of enemy troops opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing four and destroying two observation posts with their occupants.
3. One was killed and one infantry position and one observation post destroyed east of Basra.
4. Yesterday evening and today the criminal Khomeyniite clique intermittently shelled Zurbatiyah, its outskirts, and Ash-Shihabi, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 May 1983

Iran Warned Against Shelling Civil Targets*JN291642 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 83*

[Text] A military spokesman has made the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Despite our continual warnings to the spiteful Iranian regime to avoid pounding the Iraqi civilian targets and to cease shelling the secure towns and inflicting harm on these towns' inhabitants and civilian establishments, this regime persisted in its arrogance and stubbornness as if it could find no other way to vent its grudge against Iraq and the Iraqis except by this method which is condemned by all principles, values, and norms. This suspect regime continued its shelling of our towns, villages, and civilian establishments, violating the simplest meaning of moral commitment to any international norm or law.

The Iranian regime's continuation of this method will not make us stand idle; we will be forced to react vehemently and in the way and manner which will deter this regime and make it resort to logic and wisdom and give up its evil deed and follies. We possess the means and capabilities that will make it return to the correct path and respect Iraq's independence and the Iraqis' dignity and security. He who forewarns is excused.

29 May 1983

Iraqi-Soviet Protocol Signed, Delegation Leaves*JN271040 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 May 83*

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA) — Vladimir Popov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting in the USSR, and the accompanying delegation today left Baghdad for home after a visit of several days.

In a statement to INA, Popov said that the delegation signed a protocol for technical cooperation in television and radio broadcasting with the Iraqi Establishment of Radio and Television to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Popov added that he held talks with officials in the Ministry of Culture and Information and became acquainted with the know-how of those supervising the spheres of radio and television and with the development being achieved in these spheres.

Joint Committee on Palestinians Meets in Amman

Meetings Begin

JN282036 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
28 May 83

[Text] Amman — The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee in support of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories met in Amman this evening.

During today's meeting, the committee endorsed its agenda, which includes an assessment of the committee's works during the previous stage, a follow-up of the implementation of its decisions, and a review of various development projects, which will be studied at subsequent sessions. The committee also reviewed means of developing the fund in support of steadfastness to meet the needs and requirements of the citizens in the occupied Arab territories to enable them to confront the plans of the Zionist occupation authorities.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was chaired by Hassan Ibrahim, minister of the occupied territories affairs, and was attended by 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of transportation; Ahmad 'Ubaydat, minister of interior, and Shawkat Mahmud, under-secretary of the ministry of the occupied territories affairs.

The Palestinian side was headed by Hamid Abu Sittah, and attended by Khalil al-Wazir, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-yahya, and Saleh Ra'fat.

PLO's Al-Wazir Heads Palestinians

JN271810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT
27 May 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has arrived in Amman from Damascus to lead the Palestinian side in the Palestinian-Jordanian joint committee for supporting the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland.

The committee held its first session in Amman on Saturday, and will discuss the developments in the occupied West Bank following the increasing expropriation of Palestinian land by the Zionist authorities and the deportation of Palestinians.

Committee Ends Meetings

JN301244 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
30 May 83

[Text] Amman — The Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee in charge of supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories ended its meetings here last night. The conferees discussed all topics on the agenda, foremost being the financial status of the steadfastness fund. The committee adopted the necessary decisions pertinent to all topics.

The committee decided to hold contacts with the sister Arab countries, which have not paid their contributions for the fund this year, so that they would fulfill their obligations. The commit-

tee will also contact Arab and international organizations for developing the fund's resources in a manner that would meet the citizens' needs and the increasing development projects to confront the Zionist expansionist policy in the occupied territories and the mounting occupation authorities' practices against the citizens.

The committee adopted several decisions in support of the projects of the welfare societies and the social, trade unions, and sport organizations.

The Jordanian side to the committee, which was led by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of the occupied territories affairs, includes 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of transport and minister of state for cabinet affairs; Ahmad 'Ubaydat, minister of interior; and Shawkat Mahmud, under secretary of the ministry of occupied territories affairs. The Palestinian side, which was led by Hamid Abu Sittah, comprised Khalil al-Wazir, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yaya, and Salih Ra'fat.

Al-Wazir Leaves for Damascus

JN291824 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT
29 May 83

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has left Amman for Damascus after participating in the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee in charge of supporting the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

West Bank, Gaza Figures Condemn Fatah Dissidents

JN301247 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
30 May 83

[Text] Occupied West Bank — A number of personalities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have denounced the seizure of Fatah offices in Damascus by a group of dissidents, and the interference of some Arab states — particularly Syria — in Palestinian affairs.

Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, who was deposed by the occupation authorities, has said that the Arab states must respect the PLO's unity and independence. He also stressed his support for Yasir 'Arafat.

Deposed Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf has denounced any attempt to interfere in the PLO's affairs.

Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa has accused Syria of interfering in Palestinian internal affairs.

Release of Prisoners in Syria Requested

JN260703 Amman Sawt Ash-Sha'b in Arabic 26 May 83
p 1

[Text] Damascus — It has been learned that 'Akif al-Fayiz and Yasir 'Amr paid a private visit to Damascus to seek clemency for and possible release of Akim al-Fayiz, the nephew of 'Akif

al-Fayiz, and Dafi al-Jam'ani, who have been detained in Damascus without trial since 1970. It has also been learned that the visit had no other objective.

Husayn Meets With Senior Military Officers

*JN291639 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
29 May 83*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, met in Al-Husayn Medical Center at noon today with senior military commanders and officers in the Armed Forces.

During the meeting, his majesty reviewed the important issues and developments in the Arab arena and Jordan's position on recent events in light of the current circumstances. His majesty also briefed the commanders and officers in a number of important issues.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister and defense minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the chief of staff, and the directors of Public Security and General Intelligence.

Al-Jumayyil Statement to UAE, Qatar Press
NC281919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
28 May 83

[Text] In President Amin al-Jumayyil's statement to a UAE and Qatar information delegation — which will be published tomorrow in the UAE, Qatar and Lebanese media — the president declares that Lebanon will remain an active and vital member of the Arab League and the joint Arab defense charter. He said that Lebanon always sought the Arabs and Arabism, but the Arabs renounced it and the Lebanese issue was put in the hands of the world. The Arabs, through their bad behavior, imposed internationalization on Lebanon and forced it to accept these bitter decisions.

Lebanon is not the defendant as some people try to describe it, but rather Lebanon accuses, condemns, and judges. Consequently, the president added: Through you and from a position of responsibility, I call for an Arab summit conference or a meeting of the Arab League's General Assembly, not only to allow Lebanon to ask for its territories but to judge all those who brought it to this condition under the pretext of a cause.

At the beginning of his statement, President al-Jumayyil said: We welcome you in Beirut whose features have changed since 1975. No doubt you are sorry for Beirut due to the destruction that has taken place in it and in all the Lebanese areas.

The president added: Now we are at a very important crossroads in the history of Lebanon. We are passing through a fateful and historical phase during which the nature of our future will be defined. We want either an independent, free, and sovereign Lebanon that can perform all its duties toward its people and surroundings, that can be proud of its Arab origin, and shoulder all its full role in supporting the Arab issues at all levels, or let Lebanon be encircled and lose all its roles because of the occupation of its territories. Lebanon today is occupied and encircled and I do not want to go into details or to define the responsibilities of the parties. This is not the time to define responsibility. For several years now, Lebanon has been suffering from many problems. It suffers from the direct foreign interference in its internal affairs and suffers as well from some practices of Arab regimes on its territories. We have paid for our belief in the concepts of freedom and democracy and also for our respect for these concepts, as some Arab regimes misunderstood freedom and democracy and exploited them to make Lebanon an arena for their military and ideological conflicts.

After President al-Jumayyil's review of Lebanon's activities throughout the years of crisis, during which the Arab states were asked to shoulder their responsibilities toward the chaos resulting from the irresponsible Palestinian action in the south and in other areas where they established a state inside the Lebanese state and violated the sovereignty of Lebanon and its institutions, and after pointing out that Lebanon is shouldering tasks which it is not responsible for, President al-Jumayyil said: Lebanon never renounced its Arab commitments, but the Arabs on the other hand did not take any initiative that would have helped cure Lebanon's wounds and contribute to its salvation from its tragedy.

President al-Jumayyil said: Nevertheless, we did not pay much attention to these barbaric actions committed by some regimes and organizations. We rather forgot all this and supported the Palestinian people and the Arab issues in the most delicate circumstances, because Lebanon's Arab affiliation does not accept any bargaining by anyone and also because we do not allow stupidity to blind our eyes to fundamental and important matters.

I, personally have my clear stands and I will never accept any bargaining on them by any Arab officials, particularly regarding the actual nationalist stances.

The president added: On the basis of this genuine patriotic spirit, realizing my Lebanese and Arab responsibilities, I courageously, firmly, and patriotically face the necessity of confronting more tragedies and facing the situation imposed on us aimed at isolating Lebanon from the Arab family which Lebanon needs to perform its full role in supporting Arab issues. There are some who want me to ignore the reality we are living today, to adopt a cheap demagogic course, to lose our homeland and disperse our people, and to keep our territories occupied as is the case with some Arab territories.

President al-Jumayyil added: As for those who disregard the simplest bases of patriotism and sublime national interests, who prefer political regimes and slogans to the homelands' interests, let them be drowned in their slogans and ideologies. For me, Lebanon is more important than the president; the Lebanese homeland is more valuable than the regime. The interests of the Lebanese people, who have given the Arabs more than anyone else in the world, are more important than all the slogans, regimes, and other interests.

For me, no interest is higher than the survival and continuation of the country, that the Lebanese people remain sovereign, free, and independent.

The president was asked about the alternatives to the declared Syrian refusal to withdraw from Lebanon in case this rejection continues. Al-Jumayyil answered: What is declared is one thing but what finally occurs is another. The current declared Syrian stance is not final. We have said time and again that the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is not a Lebanese feast and that we are not prepared at present to celebrate as we have paid much for the Arab hesitation, laziness, and differences which brought about Lebanon's current bitter and tragic situation. Al-Jumayyil added: We believe that this agreement is the lesser of two evils, the evil of losing the territories and the homelessness of the people, or that of signing the agreement. If we restore the territories, and they will be restored, we will continue the national march, restore stability, and create a new Lebanon on the basis of the ambitions and aspirations of the Lebanese people. We should all cooperate in dealing with the Syrian ideological stance which I fully understand and which was dictated by the interests of the Syrian regime on the basis of its ideology. Meanwhile, I hope that the Syrian people and regime will realize the Lebanese interests and respect the sovereign Lebanese decision. We also hope that Syria will not interfere in our internal affairs as we do not allow ourselves to interfere in theirs.

The Lebanese people have unanimously supported the government in its endeavors to liberate the country, and the Syrian Government should recognize and respect this right. Lebanon is not responsible for the agreement and the Arabs should judge themselves before they judge Lebanon. As we have mentioned on more than one occasion, Syria is a brotherly country and it is the nearest to us in geographic position and historical relations. We have to reach a speedy solution with fraternal Syria, a solution which ensures Lebanese interests and does not harm Syrian ones.

President al-Jumayyil added: During the negotiations, we were cognizant of Syria's interests, and we insisted on guaranteeing Syria's safety in a way that would not allow the Lebanese territories to be a passage for any aggression against Syria. The agreement has clearly stipulated that Lebanon will not be a bridge for aggression against any neighboring country.

The president was asked whether there will be a meeting shortly between him and President Hafiz al-Asad for deciding on the matter of the Syrian withdrawal. Al-Jumayyil answered: The meetings between me and President al-Asad never stopped prior to and after my election as president of the republic and it gives me pleasure to meet with President al-Asad when a meeting is deemed useful.

The president was asked about the fears in some Arab states and among some Lebanese parties opposed to the agreement that it might lead to partitioning. The president answered: It is I who fear these results the most. The agreement can be in the interest of Lebanon and the Arabs as long as the Arabs cooperate with us in the implementation of the agreement in a responsible spirit. The agreement is not a triumph but rather a price paid by Lebanon and a way for containing danger. We will try to overcome the shortcomings of the agreement and will implement it in a way that will preserve Lebanese interests. The opposition to the agreement has continued within a democratic framework. We respect and safeguard the opposition within the framework of the law, the constitution, and political conventions.

With regard to a partitioning, the president said: It will not happen unless some Arab states wanted to push Lebanon toward it through interference in our internal affairs and through their military presence on our land. There will not be a partitioning in the true sense of the word but it will rather be a military division [iqtitā'] as a result of the occupation. There are four regular armies [jiyash] stationed in some of the Lebanese areas which are not yet under the control of the legitimate authorities, namely Syrian, Palestinian, Libyan, and Iranian armies. If they do not show a readiness to help the Lebanese Government restore its sovereignty over all the Lebanese territories, this will lead to military division. If you could conduct a referendum in the Lebanese areas on the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon, you would be able to fully understand the tragedy in which some Lebanese live. He added: Syria did not ask Lebanon's permission when it concluded the friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union. Therefore, Lebanon does not seek others' opinion when it gets guarantees from friendly countries that take into account Arab' interests.

On his expectations regarding the possibility of war breaking out in Al-Biqa' between Israel and Syria, the President said: I hope

it will not take place, because it will result in further catastrophes for Lebanon and the Lebanese and also because I am a man of peace and not a man of war, though I fight when the matter is connected with national dignity and sovereignty.

Al-Jumayyil Calls Agreement 'Sole Choice'

NC300836 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0605 GMT
30 May 83

[Speech by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at the 105th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Islamic Al-Maqasid Institution in Beirut on 29 May — recorded]

[Excerpts] We stand today at the threshold of a serious and fateful stage, in which we are in dire need of the cohesion of the Arab rank and of the unity of goals and steps to rescue Lebanon and the Arab causes. Just as a destroyed and divided Lebanon, an uncontrolled arena for conflicts and sabotage, reflect on the other Arab states and on the Arab causes in setbacks and repercussions, a united, healthy, free, and stable Lebanon constitutes a reassurance for its brothers, peace for their societies, and a guarantee for their causes.

If Lebanon's Arab affiliation was the result of conviction, belief, and free choice within the framework of Lebanon's natural environment and natural role, the agreement it recently signed was tantamount to an inevitable step for liberation. [applause]

The bitter fact is that this agreement was the inevitable result of disregarding Lebanon's feelings, the unleashing of contradictions in it, the exportation of conflicts to it, the neutralization of its authority, the disintegration of its structure, and the destruction of its resources. In the absence of a joint Arab alternative, the agreement has become the sole choice to end the occupation, liberate the land, and end the psychological, sectarian, and geographic division at home, and to prevent geographic and human separation. For Lebanon to have freedom of affiliation and to be active within its Arab environment, and interactive with its Arab environment on the human, political, and economic levels, it must be liberated.

I have pledged to safeguard the independence of the Lebanese homeland [applause] and its territorial integrity, and I shall not disavow the pledge nor relinquish one inch of land, an iota of dignity, or an iota of national right. [applause] I am confident that our Arab brothers thankfully understand Lebanon's position. I do not think they will spare any effort to rescue it from the dangers threatening it so it can resume its creative role through its unified cultures.

The biggest challenge belongs to us Lebanese. It is a challenge to our determination to triumph with firm resolve and strong unity; to destroy the barriers, overcome the difficulties, and build on top of the wounds; and to rebuild Lebanon — the Lebanon of freedom, the Lebanon of mankind — our great Lebanon. May you live long, long live Al-Maqasid, and long live Lebanon. [applause]

Al-Wazzan Meets European Parliament Delegation
NC281301 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 28 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan received the European Parliament delegation at the government palace this morning. He reviewed with the delegation the current situation in Lebanon following the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. The discussions at the meeting centered on the firm Lebanese stand on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan Defends Lebanese Position on Agreement
NC291014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT
 29 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan defined the horizons of the stage which follows the signing of the agreement between Lebanon and Israel and related the story of the Arab position toward Lebanon since 1948 and up to the Fes conference. He declared that Lebanon today is expecting the [Arab] brothers to get Israel out, and that the Arabs have not responded to Lebanon's repeated appeals. While they decided at the Fes conference to respond to the demand for a joint Arab strategy, this was done so that the conference would not end without resolutions. The fact that the resolution remained ink on paper proves this point, he said.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan reviewed the relations between Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance and referred to Lebanon's embrace of the resistance, which grew in the country. He stressed that Lebanon had done its utmost for the sake of the Arab cause, to the point of sacrificing itself. It found itself languishing under the occupation. It got to the point where President Reagan had to talk to Begin to open a water faucet in Beirut. This demanded that Lebanon adopt a difficult option in the absence of an Arab position, and thus the negotiations took place because Lebanon did not want its territory to remain under occupation.

In his interview with the joint press delegation from Qatar and the UAE, which visited Beirut last week at the invitation of the Ministry of Information, Prime Minister al-Wazzan reviewed the stages through which the negotiations passed. He affirmed that Lebanon realized its pan-Arab duties when it incorporated an article into the agreement to ensure Syria's security without its knowledge. If Lebanon was concerned only with its own interests, the negotiations would have ended within 5 minutes.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan pointed out that the Syrian hardline position during the negotiations served as a Lebanese card for applying pressure, which the Lebanese negotiator utilized to foil a number of Israeli conditions.

QNA Reports Interview
GF300752 Doha QNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Doha, 30 May (QNA) — Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has declared that Lebanon will consider the Lebanese-Israeli agreement null and void or suspended if the Israelis do not withdraw from Lebanese territory. He said that

during the tripartite negotiations Lebanon rejected an Israeli request to establish early warning stations on its territory.

Al-Wazzan said that the Israeli side justified its request by saying that the purpose is to prevent incursions by armed men from Lebanon. However, he said, Lebanon took the view that the establishment of such stations will be directed against Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and other countries, and will also bring about Israeli movement from and into Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan said that Lebanon also rejected an Israeli request to hold a meeting in Jerusalem between himself, as Lebanese prime minister, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Lebanon also refused to sign a peace treaty or normalize relations, he said.

In an interview Al-Wazzan gave to the editors in chief of Qatari and UAE papers and published today by the Qatari papers *Ar-Rayah* and *Al-'Arab*, Al-Wazzan said that Lebanon is seeking to bring about an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and declared: "We did not seek an agreement. We did not win a military battle. It would have been better if there had been no Israeli occupation and no agreement."

The Lebanese prime minister affirmed Lebanon's support for the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people. He said that the Lebanese side in the talks emphasized the PLO's representative capacity as endorsed by Arab summit conferences.

Al-Wazzan Statement Prior to Paris Trip
NC291248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 29 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan will be paying a visit to France today at the official invitation of his French counterpart Pierre Mauroy. At Beirut airport, Prime Minister al-Wazzan made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Al-Wazzan] We harbor feelings of love and friendship toward a great country which was and has remained a friend to Lebanon. In these difficult circumstances through which we are passing, we look toward our loving brothers and friends and try to cooperate with them to emerge from our tragic crisis. Of course, France has adopted excellent stands toward the Lebanese people since the outbreak of the crisis and continues to stand with all its weight on the side of Lebanon. It is participating in the multinational force to help maintain security in Lebanon. There are many issues which we would like to discuss with our French friends. The atmosphere in this respect is good. Everything has been reassuring regarding the existing relations with France. We shall try to exploit all this for the benefit of our two countries and particularly for the benefit of wounded Lebanon.

[Unidentified speaker] [words indistinct]

[Al-Wazzan] This question has become traditional every time we talk about France. There are no current accounts about these demands between us and France. We have known from the beginning and from the start of French aid to us that France is fully prepared to assist us in everything that will help toward

salvation. When the time comes for such an increase, I do not think that the French will hesitate. [end recording]

Salim Meets With European Parliament Delegation
NC271244 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 27 May 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today reviewed the current situation with the members of a European Parliamentary delegation, which represents a group of Christian Democratic parties in the European Parliament.

Minister Salim explained to the delegation's members the articles of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement on the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

The delegation visited deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Munir Abu Fadil at 1200. The meeting was attended by the EC representative and the FRG ambassador in Lebanon.

Salim Reported Ready To Visit Syria, USSR
NC302121 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
 30 May 83

[Text] In a statement he made a few days ago to a joint UAE-Qatari information delegation, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim said that it is unlikely that there will be an Israeli-Syrian confrontation in Lebanon, despite the fact that the tempo of mutual warnings has reached its peak. He based his conviction on the fact that such a confrontation would serve no purpose. Israel, he said, prefers to stay in Lebanon and hopes there will not be a Syrian-Palestinian withdrawal.

Therefore, Lebanon still does not believe that the Syrian stand on a withdrawal is final. This is because if the Syrian stand is final, it means that Damascus accepts the Israelis remaining where they are in Lebanon and at the gates of Beirut.

Minister Salim said: We now need the help of Syria and the Palestinians. I am ready to stay in Damascus 4 weeks to hold talks with the Syrians and conclude an agreement with Damascus that will disperse all its fears.

Minister Salim asked: Now that there are 50,000 Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, where is Syria's security? We were negotiating with Israel with our eyes on Syria, because we want the best relations with it in every economic and security sphere. Frankly, if Syria abandons us, we will fall into the hands of Israel. It is in our national and pan-Arab interest that Syria help us. We are ready to put this in writing and to discuss in depth everything that threatens Syria's security.

Minister Salim said: There is nothing that prevents me from visiting Moscow. He explained that the problem in Lebanon is a Soviet-American and a Syrian-Israeli one.

Saudi Visit Scheduled

NC311216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 31 May 83

[Text] It was announced today that Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim will visit Saudi Arabia this coming Saturday [4 June] to meet with King Fahd to discuss the various stances in the wake of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, and to clarify the Lebanese stand. Lebanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Zafir al-Hasan is expected in Beirut tomorrow to make preparations for this visit.

Defense Minister Supports Accord With Israel
NC292147 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
 29 May 83

[Text] Minister of National Defense, National Education and Fine Arts 'Isam Khuri has said that Lebanon made the decision to liberate the homeland and bring about the withdrawal of foreign armies with full independence and honor. He stated that our conscience is our only guardian and our national will is our only master.

Minister Khuri, who was delivering an address at the municipal playground in Burj Hammud this afternoon on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the world scout movement, added: The agreement Lebanon signed a few days ago with Israel was not a compulsory agreement, but a means by which we aspire to wrest the homeland from the hands of the abductors.

Minister Khuri added: In a week's time, a year will have passed since Israel's occupation of Lebanon began and 16 years will have passed since the occupation of Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan began. We have signed the agreement so that Israel will not continue to celebrate the occupation of Lebanon 16 or more years. He asked: What is strange or wrong with that? And who loves the land of Lebanon more than the people of Lebanon? Reviewing Lebanon's efforts to regain its territory, Minister Khuri said: We have not found an alternative to the difficult negotiations which led us to the agreement. We will not accept that our land should remain under occupation in order to favor or please this one or that one.

Damascus: Karami on Withdrawal, Shultz Remarks
JN281115 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
 28 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon —Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami has said that Israel will not withdraw beyond the Al-Awwali River, and that the agreement which Lebanon signed would not achieve a withdrawal beyond that limit.

In a statement he made in Tripoli yesterday, Karami accused Washington of trying to partition Lebanon. He said that this was confirmed by the fact that Washington is not trying to implement the agreement but to free itself from its commitments and promises to Lebanon.

Upon meeting a delegation of former deputies, and after reviewing the situation in the Lebanese and Arab arenas, Karami said: There is no doubt that this agreement which was imposed on Lebanon, and all that it entails, is the work of the United States. The only thing to be expected from it is that it will be in the interest of Reagan and the Zionist enemy. Karami noted that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz statement that the only result, if the agreement was not implemented, would be the partition of Lebanon is exactly what they want in Washington.

The former Lebanese prime minister affirmed that Syria's positions are justified in view of what the consequences of this agreement could be to the security of Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab world. He stressed the need to keep Lebanon in its Arab environment, affirming that it should not be dragged along with the U.S.-Zionist scheme to partition Lebanon.

VOAL: Al-Asad Made Secret Visit to Moscow

NC280605 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0541 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Press reports say Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad paid a secret visit to the Soviet Union last weekend. These sources did not give details on the talks during this secret visit, but pointed out that the talks concerned current developments. They say it is believed President al-Asad discussed bilateral relations in the political and military spheres following the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

VOL on Syrian, Muslim Brotherhood Clashes

NC281330 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Machinguns were used in clashes in Aleppo and other Syrian towns between the Muslim Brotherhood and the special forces. We have received reports that a violent clash occurred the day before yesterday, Thursday, between Syrian intelligence personnel and the special forces units on the one hand and Muslim Brotherhood members on the other near the citadel in the Al-Jami' al-Kabir quarter, killing or injuring three Syrian security personnel, including an intelligence officer.

These reports say that the special forces cordoned off the area with a large number of forces and warned the people that they will shell the houses with artillery after preventing entry to or exit from the area. The people there immediately came out to the streets in protest against the cruel treatment by the special forces units and intelligence personnel, particularly with regard to cutting roads, stopping food supplies, and opening fire for intimidation.

RFL: Syrian Tanks, Soviet Advisers in Al-Biq'a

NC281219 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Our correspondent in the Al-Biq'a says the Syrian forces today completed building a secondary road between Syria and Qusaya in the eastern Al-Biq'a to facilitate the passage of

military supplies. Security reports say the Syrians have deployed tanks and vehicles in the plains for camouflage purposes. Soviet experts were seen in the Shtawrah area. The Syrians have been working since this morning to set up a radar installation in the ('Ayn Habash) area near the Maksah township.

Israeli Reinforcements Reported in Al-Biq'a

NC282138 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Yesterday and today the Israelis brought into western Al-Biq'a about 350 tanks and vehicles as further reinforcements against the Soviet-backed Syrian reinforcements.

Libyan Planes Transport Arms to Syria

NC291042 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received information that Libyan military and civilian aircraft unloaded huge quantities of arms and ammunition at the Damascus and Al-Mazzah airports in the past few days. The arms include advanced missiles that were stockpiled in the Libyan arsenal as well as air-to-air missiles to equip MIG-25 and MIG-23 jets. It should be recalled that Libya sent a battalion to Syria, which has taken up combat positions alongside the Syrian Army in Al-Biq'a.

Soviet Officer Inspects Syrian Positions

NC291252 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] We have received information that a senior Soviet officer of the general staff visited Syria in the past few hours and, accompanied by Soviet experts, made a tour of the antiaircraft missile bases in Syria. He then moved to Shtawrah and inspected the Syrian army positions before returning to Damascus to inspect the joint Syrian-Soviet operations room which coordinates military matters and is directly connected with the Soviet military command in Moscow.

Syrians Dismantle PLO Rocket Base in Al-Biq'a

NC301218 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent in the Al-Biq'a, a group of Palestinians set up a Katyusha rocket base between Lusya and Ghazzah villages in the western Al-Biq'a and fired one rocket at 0200 today. The direction in which it was fired and the results are unknown. A Syrian force arrived at the scene, dismantled the base, expelled the Palestinians, and warned them not to return to this area.

Secret Saudi-Syrian Talks on Withdrawal

NC301319 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT
30 May 83

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, Syrian-Saudi talks began 3 days ago in complete secrecy to resolve the question of the Syrian withdrawal.

Syria's conditions include its demand for \$12 billion as a compensation for its losses during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It also stipulates that there should be no diplomatic representation between Beirut and Damascus and that it participate in joint Lebanese-Syrian verification committees along the two countries' border.

Report on Shelling of Beirut Airport 30 May

NC302112 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT
30 May 83

[Text] At 1945 today, two shells fell on the southern runway of Beirut international airport, but there were no casualties. The shells fell just 10 minutes before the arrival of a French military aircraft carrying 160 French soldiers. These soldiers have arrived as part of a rotation within the French contingent of the multinational force. Two aircraft followed later, and the number of the arrivals amounted to 480 French soldiers. An equal number of troops will leave for France on board the same aircraft this evening.

Tension in Al-Biq'a; Clashes Reported 31 May

NC310618 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT
31 May 83

[Text] Tension prevails in the Al-Biq'a while the Syrians and Israelis have been increasing their reinforcements.

At midnight last night, artillery shelling took place for 30 minutes in the 'Ammiq area, accompanied by flares. The Al-Biq'a

area is still witnessing further reinforcements flowing in from all sides. The Israelis are bringing in tanks and artillery, and the Syrians are reinforcing their positions and are continuing their maneuvers. While tension dominates the Al-Biq'a, it decreased in the last 2 days as the Israeli Air Force did not carry out routine flights and did not break the sound barrier.

Beirut-Damascus Highway Reportedly Cut 31 May

NC310721 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT
31 May 83

[Text] A security source has said the Beirut-Damascus International Highway is cut at Dahr al-Wahsh. The source said that Dib 'Ali 'Alawiyah was shot dead in Al-Murayjah Square [in Beirut] last night and that the crime is being investigated. An explosive device exploded in a Mercedes belonging to Dib Muhammad 'Alawiyah at 0300 today.

SANA Quotes Wafa on 42 Israelis Casualties

JN282124 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2040 GMT 28 May 83

[Excerpt] Beirut, 28 May (SANA) — During the last 2 days, the Lebanese national resistance killed or wounded more than 42 Zionists and destroyed at least five military vehicles. The national resistance had carried out an operation with highly explosive charges in the Sidon area against an Israeli convoy consisting of six vehicles and a jeep.

Wafa says that the explosion destroyed two military vehicles and a jeep, and killed or wounded their occupants. As a result, the invading forces combed the area, stormed scores of houses, and questioned the residents. In another development, a Zionist military spokesman admitted that a mine went off under a group of enemy soldiers near the village of 'Ammiq in the central sector of southern Lebanon, yesterday morning.

Armed Forces End Spring Maneuvers 28 May*JN281131 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 28 May 83*

[Text] Our Armed Forces today successfully completed the spring maneuvers in which all our Armed Forces corps participated and during which they proved their high capability to repulse any aggression to which they may be exposed. The forces returned to their normal state.

Soviet Role Denied*JN282104 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2040 GMT 28 May 83*

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris, carried in the "Panorama" program — recorded]

[Excerpt] A Syrian Defense Ministry military communique today said that the Syrian Armed Forces today successfully completed the spring maneuvers today in which all army corps participated and during which they proved their high capability of repulsing any aggression to which they may be exposed. The communique noted that the Syrian forces returned to their normal state.

A ranking Syrian officer has affirmed that the maneuvers were conducted within the Syrian territory. He declined to reply a question on the date of the summer maneuvers.

When I asked him if the Soviets have in one way or another participated in these maneuvers, the Syrian officer said briefly: No.

Cabinet Discusses Lebanese Developments*JN301133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 May 83*

[Text] Damascus — The Cabinet met at 1100 today with Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasmp residing. The Cabinet made an overall review of the various developments that are currently taking place on the Lebanese, Arab, and international arenas. The Cabinet also reviewed the preparations that are underway in Syria on all levels.

The Cabinet studied the basic issues that have been referred to it and which require immediate measures. The Cabinet approved a number of draft laws and decrees on its agenda.

Culture Minister's Remarks on Withdrawal*JN300926 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 May 83*

[Text] Damascus, 30 May (SANA) — In an article published in TISHRIN today, [Syrian Culture Minister] Dr Najah al-Attar affirmed that Syria will not withdraw from Lebanon before an unconditional Israeli withdrawal and without Israel achieving any gains from its invasion so that force will not be rewarded.

Dr Al-Attar said: Syria does not seek to give anyone lessons in patriotism. However Syria's history and struggle traditions on the national and pan-Arab level reflect Syria's sense of responsibility for sovereignty, commitment to the land, and nonsubmission to the occupation authorities.

Dr Al-Attar further added: The Lebanese negotiating team had advance plans to submit to the U.S. pressure and grant Israel gains for its invasion. This side's words of adherence to sovereignty were mere expressions for domestic consumption and to reassure the Arabs so that the agreement could be peddled by a Trojan horse filled with lies rather than soliders.

Continuing, Dr Al-Attar said: The entrenchment of occupation cannot be called evacuation. Acceptance of the occupation and tampering with sovereignty are not acts of cleverness but treason. Telling lies against the Arabs and attacking them by the Phalangists who cooperated with Israel, welcomed its invasion of Lebanon and acted through the authority to legalize the agreement is not something new.

She added: Lebanon, the Phalangist which has sold out 20 Arab relations for one Israeli relationship, is like Judas Iscariot, who betrayed his master for 20 pieces of silver and then hanged himself in a stable and remained cursed forever.

Dr Al-Attar concludes her article by saying: Syria, which is overcoming difficulties by determination, conquering ordeals by strong will, replying to threats by preparedness, and facing fears with courage, will face war with the severest blows which will inflict the gravest losses on the enemy.

Government To Reply to 'Any' Aggression*JN271432 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 May 83*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Israeli enemy is escalating its aggressive actions in Lebanon to deal an abortive blow to Syria and its armed forces in order to weaken it and undermine its cohesion so that the Zionists and their American supporters may continue to carry out their designs, which aim at imposing hegemony on the Arab region. Under the pretext that Syria continues its military preparations in Lebanon, intensive consultations are being held between the Israeli enemy and the U.S. administration to draw up the details on the implementation of the aggression. At the same time, the enemy leaders announced that they are holding meetings to assess the military situation. Nevertheless, these leaders are not taking offense at the directing of continuous accusations against Syria to escalate the tension, which is usually followed by impertinent warnings against what they call the consequences of playing with fire.

Israel's leaders use these Syrian accusations to conceal their aggressive positions and preparations for launching war. They are continuing to reinforce their invading forces in Lebanon, and their information continues to focus on the extent of the Soviet support for Syria. In the last few days, they took provocative

military actions against our forces in Al-Biqā'. It seems the Israeli leaders believe that their aggressive behavior will undermine Syria's firm rejection of the agreement which was imposed on Lebanon and help carry out the agreement and implement a new stage of the strategic cooperation between the United States and its aggressive entity, especially the new agreement of understanding, which is a mere addendum to the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. These beliefs are baseless because Syria's stand on the conspiratorial agreement is decisive and firm.

If the enemy wants to carry out an aggressive adventure to impose this agreement, it should think a thousand times. Syria will not hesitate to respond to this challenge and foil it. It will bravely and firmly reply to any aggressive action against it, Lebanon, the Lebanese people, and the Arab nation and its rights and dignity.

Syria is fully aware of the size of its pan-Arab responsibility, and it will not refrain from fully shouldering this responsibility because its militant destiny makes it dutybound to remain in the first position in defense of its nation and to generously sacrifice its people's blood, sweat, and daily bread for the sake of pan-Arab honor.

U.S., Israeli Intentions in Lebanon Analyzed

*JN271823 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT
27 May 83*

[Palestine Broadcast: Talk of the Return]

[Text] The United States and Israel have taken big steps toward confronting the Syrian and Palestinian forces in Al-Biqā'. Israel has reinforced its military presence in Lebanon, where it built airbases and fortifications, and installed early-warning and radar stations on Al-Baruk Mountain. It also sent more tanks and armored vehicles and the enemy jet fighters continued their reconnaissance flights over the Lebanese territories. These Israeli preparations are being carried out to launch an aggression against Syria in full coordination between Washington and Tel Aviv.

White House sources said that President Reagan has received a message from Menahem Begin. This message was enough for Reagan to affirm that the United States was concerned over what he called Syria's intentions following its rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and its announcement that it would undermine this agreement.

Reports assert that the United States and Israel are using every means, including force, to impose the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. With regard to this, press sources in London said that the forthcoming meeting between Menahem Begin and President Reagan would define the joint Israeli-U.S. action to impose the Lebanese-Israeli agreement on the parties which oppose it, foremost of which are Syria and the PLO. Israel has escalated its talk about war and confrontation, and the other diverse statements being made by the Israeli opposition fall within the framework of camouflage, which the Zionists usually employ before entering any war. Hence, it is possible that war will break out because President Reagan and enemy Prime Minister Menahem Begin

need any action to support them in their election campaign. Therefore, they have no other choice but the military option, especially since the failure of the Reagan peace plan pertaining to the Middle East and the Palestine question, and the rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of submission by Syria, the PLO, and the Lebanese national forces.

Western observers refer to a possible military confrontation between Syria and Israel and say that these possibilities have become certain in light of unlimited U.S. support for Israel, of Israeli concentrations in Lebanon, and of Syria's rejection of the agreement drawn up by the United States as a base for Lebanese-Israeli relations. Also within this framework, Pentagon sources said that the 75 F-16 warplanes have been delivered to the Zionist army and that the rumors spread by the Reagan administration that this deal will be delivered in 1985 are baseless. In Reagan's message to Menahem Begin, by its supporting stand for Israel and its aggressive and expansionist policies in Lebanon, the occupied homeland, and the entire region, the U.S. Administration continues to support the forthcoming Zionist aggression against Syria and the PLO. It also will not refrain from blessing any new Israeli military action.

Two days ago, Moshe Arens described U.S.-Israeli relations as very good. The Lebanese-Israeli agreement has strengthened these relations. This is represented by the secret appendices to this agreement under which President Reagan promised his friend Menahem Begin that Washington will fulfill all its commitments to Israel defined by this joint agreement. This secret agreement completes the strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel. The development of U.S.-Israeli relations, especially since signing the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, have become dangerous. This is shown by the Israeli preparations for confronting the Syrian and Palestinian forces in Al-Biqā'.

Commentary on Israeli, U.S. Aggression

*JN281522 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
28 May 83*

[Station Commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan is worried by the military concentrations in Al-Biqā'. Reagan's anxiety over the Middle East is one sided and suffers from color blindness because it only watches one side and sees only one color. If Reagan has expressed his extreme anxiety over what he termed the Soviet military presence in Syria, then the U.S. Defense Department statement yesterday interpreted frankly and without deviation what Reagan meant. The department said that the Syrian forces reinforcements in Lebanon and along the entire Syrian-Lebanese borders will only lead to further tension in an explosive region and threaten the existing fragile peace in Lebanon. We do not believe that there is a single official in the world who is as biased as Reagan is to Israel or as intolerant against a party in a dispute as Reagan is against Syria. Why does Reagan see only Syrian concentrations and does not see the intensive Israeli concentrations and the aggressive Israeli preparations? Why does he ignore the region's realities, the fact that Israel is occupying others' lands and refusing to withdraw from them and that it continues aggressive actions and threatens peoples' security and peace and

challenges international law and the UN Charter and resolutions concerning the Middle East?

How can a president, who wants to play the role of a mediator, ignore the presence of the invading Israeli forces in the West Bank, Gaza, Tabah, the Golan Heights, and Lebanon, and ignore the intensive Israeli concentrations along the Syrian border and the contact lines, the huge arms arsenal in Israel, and the daily threats by the Israeli military and civilian rulers against Syria and its armed forces? How can the aggrieved party be blamed and accused when it tries to defend itself, and the aggressor and outlaw is not blamed?

The statements made by Reagan and Shultz on partitioning Lebanon, and the U.S. State Department attempts to distort Syria's stand and forge the objective realities can be understood if only linked to statements of threat by Arens, Shamir, Levy, Ben-Elisar, and Tzipori, and to the aggressive Israeli preparations in the occupied Lebanese and Syrian territories. The U.S. and Israeli statements and the aggressive Israeli military preparations aim to pressure Syria, weaken it, and force it to stop its rejection of the U.S.-Israeli agreement, which is intended to be imposed on Lebanon to spread hegemony over the region and liquidate the Palestine question.

The rulers of Washington and Tel Aviv, who believe that their plans are being undermined by the brave Syrian positions defending Lebanon, the Palestine question, and the Arab nation's interests, are using threats, blackmail and aggression to remove the Syrian obstacle from the path of their plans, which are threatened by collapse and extinction.

The aggressive U.S. statement against Syria reaffirm that the United States is responsible for the Israeli rulers' actions and behavior, that it had supported the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and still supports Israeli expansionist designs, and that it uses the Israeli war machine to serve U.S. policies hostile to Syria and the Arabs.

Despite attempts by the rulers of the United States and Israel to conceal their preparations for an aggression and provocations, the world knows that Israel is the aggressor and occupier and that Israel is preparing for a new aggression.

The aggressors will not be able to escape the consequences of their actions and they have to know that it is dangerous to play with fire and that he who sets the fire will not be able to put it out. It should be clear to the rulers of Washington and Tel Aviv that the Middle East is not a U.S. state or an extension of Israel's security, that many world forces have interests in this region, and that these forces will not stand by watching the actions of the Israeli adventurers and their protectors in Washington. Syria will adhere to its right to defend itself by all available means.

President Hafiz al-Asad said that Syria will defend itself and will not retreat from any threat and aggression. Reagan said that Syria is isolated, but Syria is aware that the Arab masses are supporting it against imperialism and Zionism and Syria relies on these masses and trusts that it will achieve victory.

Lebanese 'Nationalists' Claim Bhamdun Attack

JN301606 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic

1515 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Beirut — The Lebanese nationalist resistance today claimed responsibility for the blowing up of two Zionist military vehicles in Bhamdun yesterday. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and three others were wounded. Meanwhile, a Zionist military spokesman admitted that a hand grenade was hurled at an Israeli vehicle near Galerie Sim'an in Beirut. As usual, the Zionist spokesman claimed that no casualties or damage was sustained as a result of this operation.

The Lebanese nationalist resistance operations behind enemy lines affirm the resistance's absolute rejection of the contract of submission which the Lebanese regime signed with the Zionist enemy. These operations also affirm its commitment to the armed struggle as the only way to expel the Zionist invaders from Lebanon.

Commentary Attacks Lebanese Government's Stand

JN291350 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT

29 May 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Though the majority of the Lebanese people reject, denounce, and condemn the contract of submission, it seems that the Lebanese regime continues to ignore the broad popular will and so far shows no readiness or inclination to retreat from this contract of humiliation. On the contrary, the regime seeks to deceive and circumvent facts, and depict matters as other than they are. This regime is also trying to make comparisons which cannot be accurate either in form, results, or contents. Undoubtedly, such attempts serve neither Lebanon, the Lebanese people, nor the Lebanese regime, because the daily circumstances unquestionably prove that the majority of the Lebanese people, irrespective of inclinations, trends, or affiliation, reject this agreement. While the Lebanese national resistance is confronting the invaders and occupiers with force as an expression of rejection, condemnation, and confrontation, the Lebanese parties, figures, and political and national forces have clearly expressed, on Lebanese territory and from within Beirut itself, their rejection, condemnation, and confrontation of this agreement. The national conference convening in Tripoli [Lebanon] and the information seminar in Shtawah are clear, explicit examples of rejection of this agreement by the majority of the Lebanese people. What advantages can the Lebanese regime achieve then through its attempt to deceive and circumvent facts, and depict the Lebanese opposition to the agreement as being external?

Everybody knows that the Lebanese people reject the Israeli agreement and that the Phalangist Party alone, supported by its allies, is trying to impose this agreement, through coercion, oppression, and the force of occupation and terrorism, on the Lebanese people. Anyone who chooses to be the representative of the Phalangist Party, and with it of this trend, chooses to be against the will of the Lebanese people and outside the legitimacy which will always stem from safeguarding the Lebanese national

equation, national balance, and Charter, and from protecting the basis on which Lebanon was established in the first place.

In this case, the Lebanese regime chooses to side with those who are calling for a partition of Lebanon, as Shultz predicted, especially since those who imposed the agreement on Lebanon wanted to partition Lebanon and fragment its unity. Is this what the regime in Lebanon wants? Will the attempts to circumvent facts succeed in changing reality?

Every sincere Lebanese, regardless of school, today realizes that the agreement is an Israeli-U.S.-Phalangist plan to rob Lebanon of its Arabism and to destroy and fragment it. If a minority wants this agreement, in order to impose hegemony on Lebanon through occupation, this will not only prompt the Lebanese people to resist it, but also to resist those who are publicly advocating the formula of victor and vanquished and who want to rule Lebanon by means of oppression, despotism, and fire and steel.

Therefore, Lebanon's leaders warned of this consequence. Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the other former Lebanese prime ministers, the heads of the nationalist parties, the clergymen, and all the Lebanese political and nationalist functionaries warned of this consequence. Do all these warnings and this rejection of the agreement and hegemony originate from outside, as the Lebanese Government is trying to insinuate? Do Lebanon's leaders, its politicians, and the heads of its parties not represent the Lebanese people? Is the Phalangist Party, which is dealing with the enemy, the only body representing the Lebanese people?

This talk cannot conform to logic and no one can accept it. Hence, the Lebanese regime's call for respecting what it terms the volition of the Lebanese people is nullified, because the Phalangist Party represents neither Lebanon nor the Lebanese people. It represents a minority which wants to dominate the majority. The true volition of the Lebanese people has become known far and near in this world. It is a volition which rejects the contract of humiliation, and refuses to reconcile itself with the enemy or fall under its control, as much as it rejects factional hegemony.

Those who call for respecting the volition of the Lebanese people must themselves respect this volition and act according to it. Only then will Lebanon recover, its unity be preserved, and the basis on which it was established be upheld.

We in Arab Syria have no ambitions in Lebanon. All that we have done and the sacrifices we have offered have been for the sake of Lebanon, in order to preserve its unity, independence, freedom, and national balance. We have done this upon the request of the Lebanese parties and the Lebanese regime. Today, when the Lebanese regime submits to the enemy's terms and accepts the Israeli agreement, it not only denies Syria's sacrifices, but also grants the enemy privileges and gains so it can turn Lebanon into a bridgehead to launch aggressions against Syria and its people, which have been loyal and generous to the Lebanese people. What can we call this? How can Lebanon, with all its factions, agree to turn the Lebanese homeland into an Israeli-U.S. protectorate and a base for aggression against Syria?

How can Lebanon, whose security and independence was maintained by Syria for no recompense, agree to be turned into a base for Israel's aggressions against Syria, its people's security, and its national independence?

We are confident that the Lebanese people will reject this because they will not accept what Syria and their brotherly Arabs reject. Any belief that the Lebanese regime will remain an active, effective member in the Arab League and the Collective Arab Defense Pact is inconsistent with the terms of the agreement of submission, which turns Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate under U.S. trusteeship. How can the Lebanese regime be committed to the Collective Arab Defense Pact or to its Arab ties and relations? In fact, we in Arab Syria have never interfered in Lebanon's internal affairs. We have always extended help to the Lebanese people to safeguard their national accord and to preserve Lebanon's unity, freedom, and independence. Today, when the Israeli enemy and its allies are trying to impose hegemony on Lebanon's people, and when a political minority is making a pact with the enemy to conquer Lebanon's people, we in Syria will support Lebanon's people against their enemies and those who want to conquer them. We are with Lebanon's people to free Lebanon from Israeli occupation and to preserve its national balance and coexistence. We will support Lebanon's people until this objective has been achieved.

Party Official Receives DPRK Ambassador

JN281626 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 May (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Hayder, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command and head of the Foreign Relations Office, at noon received the DPRK ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Workers Party of Korea and the mounting U.S. imperialist plots in the Arab region and Latin America.

Syrian-Polish Friendship Statement Discussed

JN300956 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 30 May (SANA) — A joint statement issued here last night by the societies of friendship between Syria and Poland, stressed the importance of strengthening the friendship relations between the Syrian and the Polish peoples in their joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The statement expressed the friendly Polish people's appreciation of the principled and firm stand Syrian under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting the U.S., Israeli, and reactionary challenges, especially after the signing of the agreement of submission between the Lebanese Government and Israel under the auspices of the United States. The statement reiterated the friendly Polish people's support for the Arab people's just struggle to regain the occupied territories and achieve the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The Polish-Syrian friendship society delegation recently visited Syria. During this visit, the delegation held talks with Dr Sulayman Qaddah, Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party Regional Command member and head of the Syrian-Polish friendship society, on the recent political, economic, and social developments in Syria and Poland.

Prime Minister al-Kasm Reiterates Steadfastness

*JN281312 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
28 May 83*

[Text] At 1000 today, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm opened the governors conference at the conference hall in the Ministry of Local Administration. The opening session was attended by Walid Hamdun, deputy prime minister for services affairs; 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of local administration; and Ahmad Salim Darwish, minister of housing and utilities.

At this meeting, Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm said: The purpose of this meeting is to listen to the governors clear, accurate explanation of the situation in the governorates, particularly the implementation of projects in a methodical manner in accordance with sound economic standards that we have adopted for the evaluation of the work.

Dr al-Kasm added: We are facing delicate circumstances which dictate that we develop the methods that the organs of the state and the public sector are using. We must responsibly coordinate the required priorities in every field of production and work. We must coordinate means of maintaining the momentum of production and the vitality of the economy with means of carrying out all the duties of national defense.

Dr al-Kasm said: The pressures against Syria, through the threat of Zionist military aggression, are increasing daily and aim at aborting the Syrian stand, either by threats or aggression. In both cases, you must realize that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, will not give in to threats or be frightened by aggression.

While our world is facing many problems, the successive statements issued by Washington and Tel Aviv are preoccupied with Syria's stand and a Syria which has the honor of representing the will of the Arab nation outside Syria, which has been shackled at this critical stage.

Dr al-Kasm added: If we accept the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, how can we justify our rejection of Camp David before it? Why should we have shouldered all the consequences of conspiracies, threats, and pressures to block the road to Camp David if we are to accept the Israeli-Lebanese agreement? Frankly speaking, we believe that this agreement is more dangerous than Camp David because Lebanon's location is a vulnerable spot for the Arab cause in this region and will even harm all the countries in the Arabian Peninsula. He added: We are not surprised, in light of the current Arab weakness, to find that we are assuming the responsibility of confronting the Zionist dream which covets Arab land, oil, and borders. We are confident of the support of our friends, the militant peoples and the socialist countries. We are confident that the USSR's firm support for Syria is the embodiment of this country's great role in supporting struggling peoples, Syria, and the Arab nation with all means to achieve the victory to which they aspire.

Our brother Arabs owe us much as we proceed alone to repulse the aggression and prevent the Zionist enemy from reaching the Arab interior and the great resources it contains.

Dr al-Kasm added: Rest assured that the enemy takes Syria's strength into account. Our weapons have developed in quantity and quality, training continues, and our morale is very high, despite our knowledge that Israel, which has obtained guarantees from the United States, is fighting us with the strength of the United States. At such times, effective Arab solidarity becomes a crucial asset. If this solidarity is translated into practical terms in the arena of dispute, it will settle any battle in the interests of the Arab nation. Dr al-Kasm said: We continue to work to achieve such an effective Arab solidarity. The Arabs have no choice but to act and speak sincerely because all of them are targets.

Dr al-Kasm concluded: In the 1973 war, the Syrian front proved its efficiency. This steadfast front prevented the enemy by force from obtaining any political results. The Syrian front is now even more capable of blocking the road to the U.S.-Israeli scheme, which seeks to obtain political gains in Lebanon, the West Bank the Gaza Strip, and any other Arab arena. When war is imposed on us, we shall fight, depending first of all on ourselves, our people, our army, and our immense capabilities, because we have decided to stand fast regardless of circumstances and of the magnitude of the consequences.

Tension Reportedly Eases As Alert Continues

Syrians Said Pulling Back

TA291144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT
29 May 83

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] The calming declarations emanating from Syria and other sources in Lebanon that are associated with Syria saying that the big army maneuver in the Golan Heights and Al-Biqā' is over, this afternoon were confirmed by IDF sources as well, who said that the exercise is truly over and the units are beginning to fold up.

What is not clear, however, is where the Syrians are heading at the close of an exercise in which nearly all their army's command and combat elements took part. They might either return to their barracks and redeploy along the lines as before the exercise, or alternatively might try to do something else. From their point of view, their opening positions are now far better than they were before, as they have full tables of organization and equipment. They have their equipment fully loaded with ammunition along with the necessary gear, their commands are well trained, and their communications system has been deployed.

The IDF is thus waiting to see at what speed the Syrian units that participated in the exercise will actually fold up, and how long it will take the Syrian Army to return to the kind of deployment that would also let the IDF simultaneously ease its preparedness.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi and Commander of the Northern Command Major General Amir Drori toured the lines 2 days ago, and returned yesterday to the Golan Heights and Al-Biqā' where they once again toured the units deployed opposite the Syrian Army.

The IDF had to take very seriously the exercise that lasted 3 days, and in the course of which all the important Syrian Army elements were engaged. Past experience along the Egyptian front has taught us that it is easy, within a short period of time, to transform an exercise deployment into a deployment in a combat position that could endanger Israel.

This, coupled with the Syrian aggression toward the Israeli Air Force planes, have stepped up the level of tension and led to the serious threats. And it appears that Syria has indeed gotten the message.

The exercise has ended, apparently earlier than originally planned, and the Syrians are permitting reporters to tour the area and report that the units are folding up. The cumulative impression is that the trend in Syria is to calm spirits, for the moment at least.

To repeat, the IDF continues to follow the developments very carefully, and as long as the Syrian Army has not returned to its previous deployment, the readiness [derikhut] will continue. Let us point out here that the Syrians rushed to announce 5 days ago that they are prepared to extend by 6 months the mandate

granted to the UN Disengagement Observer Force [UNDOF] on the Golan Heights, and they did this nearly a week before the UNDOF mandate expired. This is a very unusual step.

Despite the feeling that tension is easing, we must still remember that the element that actually heated up the front was Syria, and those who did this once might very well do it again and again. In this respect one should not expect an easy summer, as the Syrians could very well repeat a series of steps that heated up the front. They, or the terrorists operating from their territory, may try to hit Air Force planes, or they might try to introduce surface-to-air missiles into Lebanon, or alternatively carry out other activity which in essence means the violation of the cease-fire agreement.

IDF Commander Assesses Situation

TA291600 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT
29 May 83

[Text] The tension in the central sector of Lebanon has eased somewhat and is considered calm in comparison with the previous few days. A senior officer in the sector told our correspondent that it was reasonable to assume that the Syrians had decided not to make any hasty moves after having seen how well prepared the IDF is in the sector. This evening our correspondent Yotam Yaqir reports from the central sector of Lebanon:

[Yaqir] There is routine activity in the central sector, on the confrontation line with the Syrians. Both sides are busy fortifying their front lines, but the tension that has typified the sector over the past few days has eased somewhat. The Syrian exercise — that was held not far from the line of contact — has ended; the political announcements are soothing. Both armies are deployed opposite each other — not far away from each other, but without contact. No firing incidents have been noted.

A senior officer in the sector told us that it was reasonable to assume that the Syrians, on seeing the IDF well deployed in the area, would not make hasty decisions about a military confrontation. They are aware of the IDF's readiness, we were told, and so they have opted to hurry up and declare the end of the exercise.

In any event, from our viewpoint, the officer told us, it makes no difference if a Syrian exercise is held or not; the IDF must be very alert and prepared. Let us also note that the Syrians are not thinning out their forces at present on the front contact line. The deployment is as it was, but activity, for the moment, is calmer.

As for the terrorists' activity: that, it seems, is another story altogether. The terrorists are working in the area under our forces' control and they are also carrying out attacks from behind the Syrian lines.

The Syrians, we were told, are not providing the terrorists with active aid, but they are turning a blind eye and giving tacit approval to the attacks. Through appropriate activity, we were told by officers in the sector, it would be possible to isolate the fight against terrorists without becoming involved in a confrontation with the Syrian forces.

Cabinet Meeting Discusses Syrian Question*TA291843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 May 83***[Report by David Essing]**

[Text] Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad has cooled off the tension almost as quickly as he heated things up in the eastern sector of Lebanon and on the Golan Heights. In the Cabinet today, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, the chief of staff, and the head of Military Intelligence reported on the situation and those Syrian statements that the big military maneuver is over and that Syria's recent moves were only defensive anyway. Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor:

[Meridor] If the Syrian statements are correct — and I hope they are — this will of course help in reducing the tension, but it should be clear that we have our eyes open and our heads to the ground, if I may say so, and took the necessary precautions to make sure that we are not surprised.

[Essing] This then is the situation tonight, but at the same time, Israeli officials say there are some lessons to be learned from the recent tension sparked by the Syrians, tension that led to Israeli forces going on alert and reinforcing units. The officials say the Syrians are mistaken if they think they can harass Israel whenever they choose and force it into taking special actions. The officials say that Israel was able to stabilize the situation.

However, on another level, Israeli officials call the continuous attacks on Israeli soldiers a serious development. Those attacks are coming both through Syrian lines and in south Lebanon, and are taking a toll in Israeli casualties. The officials say this then could be the Syrian policy, and not an all-out war with Israel. In the past, Israeli spokesmen have made clear in no uncertain terms that Israel will act to prevent this.

In the Cabinet today, Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir reported there are no basic differences with the United States in assessing recent developments in the north. One Israeli source did take issue with the statement of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that Syria has legitimate defense needs in Lebanon. In the official's words: No terrorists are trying to infiltrate Syria from Lebanese territory.

Cabinet Promised U.S. Support*TA291215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 May 83*

[Excerpt] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that it transpires from the report sent by the Israeli charge d'affaires in the United States, Binyamin Netanyahu, on his meeting with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam last week that the United States takes an identical view with Israel on events along the northern border. During their meeting, Dam praised Israel's restraint and self-control in view of the latest incidents with the Syrians, and promised that the United States would take public and other measures to bring about a calm in the situation.

Our correspondent notes that many ministers plan to leave the country early this week, adding that this is another sign that a calm has prevailed in the tension between Israel and Syria. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is scheduled to depart for Paris in the middle of the week; and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is already overseas. Ministers Sharon, Corfu, Uzan, and others are also supposed to leave the country.

Officials Comment on Syrian Situation**Defense Minister Arens Interviewed***TA280843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 28 May 83*

["Weekly Newsreel"] interview with Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer; date and place not given]

[Text] The tension between Israel and Syria has risen to worrisome dimensions this past week. There was a Syrian attempt to hit an IDF helicopter in Lebanon, an ambush of aircraft on a routine mission, and a large-scale maneuver of the Syrian Army opposite the Golan Heights. All of this was a sign of a deterioration in the situation. High-level consultations were held in Jerusalem, and Defense Minister Arens estimated that it is possible that the Syrian maneuver may develop into an offensive. In an interview with the Weekly Newsreel, the minister analyzes the situation that has developed in answer to a question by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Where is Syria heading?

[Arens] I think that quite a few people have tried to forecast the moves of Syrian ruler Al-Asad in various periods, and were not always successful. I would not pretend to have the ability to foresee what he will do. We know the meaning of his acts. The Syrians view the Israeli-Lebanese agreement as a significant achievement for Israel and are trying to prevent it. They did everything they could to prevent the Lebanese Government from signing this agreement, and are currently also preoccupied with a campaign intended to prevent the implementation of this agreement. Whether this campaign is and will be limited to a war of nerves only, or whether the Syrians are also prepared to use force — this none of us knows for sure. We are prepared for anything.

[Schiffer] You spoke about the danger of conflagration with Syria when you appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Has this danger exacerbated, or has the announcement by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas quieted things down — the declarations at least?

[Answer] We heard the declaration of Talas, who is called the war minister [Sar Hamilhama] in Syria as far as I know. Talas said that all the measures the Syrians adopted are for defensive needs only. If this is true, I am happy to hear this. I hope this is true.

[Question] Military commentators speak of a possible small-scale war between Israel and Syria — a war of attrition. Israeli spokesmen say Israel will not be dragged into a war of attrition.

What is the purport of the Israeli stance which expresses opposition to a war of attrition?

[Answer] We have enough power so that it is impossible to dictate to us the scope, direction, or nature of hostilities which the adversary or enemy will launch. If it starts with them, we will surely be the ones to determine how these hostilities will proceed. We hope the enemy will not start anything.

[Question] In the past, Israeli Governments had red lines. It was said that if the Syrians make one move or another, Israel will not be able to tolerate it. Will the introduction of surface-to-air missiles into Lebanon be a red line from Israel's and your point of view, and Israel, as was stated a few months ago, will attack these missiles?

[Answer] I think you and everyone can understand that under the present, somewhat tense circumstances, it will not be beneficial if I signal in advance exactly what we will or will not do in a certain condition. I will not do so now.

[Question] However, in the past this was a declared policy by the State of Israel that if the Syrians reintroduce the missiles into Lebanon, Israel will not tolerate this and will attack the missiles.

[Answer] If you are trying to determine a position or a fact regarding past events, I will not argue with you. My answer was regarding the present.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister: Some state that the Syrians are trying to prevent the Israeli-Lebanese agreement achieved with U.S. aid. The question arising then is how long will Israel wait for the agreement to be implemented? Is it impossible to have a situation in which Israel will act on its own for a partial withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon and will not wait endlessly for the Syrians to pull their forces out?

[Answer] I think if it transpires, if there is ground for the assessment, that the Syrians will prevent the implementation of the agreement we signed with the Lebanese Government, by refusing to evacuate those Lebanese areas where the Syrian Army is situated today. We will consult our parties to the agreement. We will sit down with the Lebanese and U.S. representatives and make an effort to reach decisions together.

[Question] When you talk of the partners to the agreement, do Israel and the United States now see eye to eye on events and developments on the northern border with Syria?

[Answer] Jerusalem's views, naturally, are not always identical to Washington's views. We are inclined to think that our view of matters is more accurate — is more correct most of the time. I would not say there is today a significant difference between the United States and Israel in viewing the events and developments in the Middle East, in Lebanon, and Syria.

[Question] Are you not afraid of a situation in which Syria may compel Israel to mobilize a certain size of reserve force for a long time, and thus harass the Israeli people who will find themselves in a state of neither war nor peace, in a state of no decision?

[Answer] Look, any hostile element — not only Syria — may cause some headache. You call this harassment, and this may be the correct label. However, we had better know that the State of Israel is very strong, the IDF is very strong, and therefore no element — not even the Syrians — can dictate moves to us or keep up a situation of intolerable alert, an alert that is extremely inconvenient for us. We are lucky. We are a small country, a small people indeed, but as a result of the ability we have and the high motivation of the Israeli people, we are a very strong country and it is hard to dictate moves to us.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister: The impression given sometimes is that what partly causes the situation in which Israel finds itself now is the fact that the people formulating assessments in the defense and other systems are unprepared to make an unequivocal assessment of matters. This may be a result of investigatory committees in the past, or the desire that we will not be surprised, like during the Yom Kippur war, again. What is your opinion on this assessment?

[Answer] My opinion is that one must not adopt unequivocal evaluations on all these topics, regarding which we have no certainty. It should not surprise you to hear that regarding the future, none of us knows what will happen for sure. Hence, when we make assessments of the situation, we in fact draw out the various possibilities, the possible different developments. This is what I demand of the IDF's intelligence branch. It is against the background of the various possibilities that we should determine our position and our moves, and not against the background of a guess which may simply prove incorrect.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister: A personal question in conclusion: This is the first time since you assumed office that you have had to cope with such an important issue as an alert and movement of forces. How do you shoulder this burden?

[Answer] This is a heavy burden, if you like, but I am not the only person in the State of Israel who shoulders a heavy burden. This is our problem. Many in the State of Israel shoulder a heavy burden, each in his position or sphere, whether this is the army, work, or political field. This is our division of work. Each shoulders his specific burden, and so do I.

Rabin Notes Washington's 'Error'

TA292026 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT
29 May 83

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin said that Syrian attempts to intercept Israeli aircraft signal that Damascus is confident about its ability, and that we are faced with an attempt by the Syrians and the Soviets to destroy the political bridge created by the peace initiative begun by the U.S. leadership.

MK Rabin believes that Washington made a grave error by not talking to the Syrians 2 months ago when they were still weak. In his opinion, it should try to reach an agreement with them now. If within 3 months such an agreement is not achieved, Rabin believes Israel will have to make painful decisions about a withdrawal, which may lead to the collapse of the Al-Jumayyil

government. Rabin was speaking in Haifa at a meeting with Labor Party members.

Rabin, Peres Criticize USSR

TA301256 Tel Aviv Yedi'ot Aharonot in Hebrew 30 May 83 p 5

[Report by Dani (Kipper) and Shay (Markovitch)]

[Text] "Soviet soldiers apparently also participated in the military maneuver the Syrians held over the last few days," Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres said last night in a lecture in Beersheba.

Peres said that in view of the worrisome signs of the past few days, including the large-scale Syrian maneuver and the attempt to intercept our planes, Israel had taken justified precautionary measures and alertness. "I think we are on the eve of a temporary drop in tension. However, the great tension in the small area in which so many military forces are concentrated has not yet died down," he said.

The Labor Party chairman said that 6,000 Soviet Army personnel were currently in Syria, and Syria had recently been armed with large quantities of modern missiles, artillery pieces, and sophisticated weapons for electronic warfare.

"The Russians have increased the Syrians' self-confidence," Peres said. He said that as a result of the massive Russian involvement in Syria, the strategic balance between the superpowers had been violated in comparison with the situation that had prevailed in the area before the Peace for Galilee operation. Peres called on Lebanon to firmly demand the Syrians' departure: "It is not Israel that should demand this of the Syrians, but Lebanon, because the Syrians claim that Lebanon invited them to 'establish order' at one time."

Shim'on Peres warned against getting involved in a war of attrition in Lebanon. "We must focus on an area of 40 km in order to safeguard the northern settlements' peace," he said, "We must separate the forces. This will lower the tension. Organizing the defense of southern Lebanon must be done by Lebanese and international forces, without any IDF involvement. The IDF must return home."

Peres said that despite the criticism leveled against him, he still insisted that the first stage of the Peace for Galilee operation was self-defense. This did not apply to the later stages.

"On 6 June last year, when the IDF had already crossed the border, the Alignment leadership was summoned to the prime minister," Peres related. "Ministers Sharon and Shamir were also present at that meeting. We were then told that the IDF would advance to a distance of 40 km and then return home. I remember that Menahem Begin told us that he had learned the lessons of the 6-day war and he would not allow the war to go beyond the targets set for it at the beginning."

MK Yitzhaq Rabin, who lectured yesterday to students in the Bar-Ilan University, also spoke about the tension in the north.

He said: "In my view, the tension that has been created in the north in the wake of the Syrian Army maneuver is a signal from the Russians that without their incorporation there will be no solution in the Middle East. Such an exercise is planned 5-6 months in advance. It was not born after the agreement between Israel and Lebanon."

MK Rabin also attacked the government for expanding the targets of the Lebanon war, saying: "We have always come out against going to war to achieve far-reaching political goals. This has been foolish. The PLO has not been destroyed in Lebanon, and it cannot be destroyed without a political solution. Syria is now stronger than it was before the outbreak of the Lebanon war."

"I welcome the agreement between Israel and Lebanon," Rabin added. "If only it could be implemented. Our problem is how to safeguard the security of the northern settlements without the IDF having to remain in Lebanon. I am not sure that 3 months after the IDF's departure from Lebanon, Katyushas will not fall on Qiryat Shmona."

To the question of whether he would compete for the leadership of the Labor Party, Rabin replied: "I suggest that you do not assume that I will not."

Terrorists Kill 3 IDF Soldiers in Lebanon

Ambush Leaves One Dead

TA282119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] One IDF soldier was killed and two were slightly wounded yesterday in a clash between an IDF patrol and a team of terrorists north of Al-Mansurah in the eastern sector of Lebanon. The family of the dead soldier has been notified. One of the terrorists was killed by IDF fire.

The IDF spokesman reported that the clash occurred yesterday at about 1530. A team of terrorists ambushed an IDF patrol near the cease-fire line in an Israeli-controlled area and shot bazooka shells and light arms fire at it. The patrol returned the fire and chased the team. During the chase, the patrol killed one of the terrorists and the rest escaped eastward to the Syrian-controlled area.

Attack From Syrian Area

TA290520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the terrorist squad that perpetrated the incident on 27 May came from the Syrian-controlled area in the Lebanese Al-Biq'a' and returned there at the end of its mission. The terrorists ambushed the patrol according to detailed plans and based on observation, and there is absolutely no doubt that the Syrians knew what their intentions were. The terrorist squad was aided by an agricultural tractor that was in the area.

At the end of last week there were four incidents in the eastern sector that were perpetrated from the area under Syrian control. IDF observations identified Syrian fire directed at East Beirut in the course of fire exchanges between Druze and Christians in the Ash-Shuf hills.

2 Killed Near Bhamdun

TA300801 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0758 GMT 30 May 83

["IDF Spokesman Announcement No. 1" — ITIM headline]

[Text][No dateline as received] The IDF spokesman announces: Two IDF soldiers were killed and three others injured yesterday by terrorist fire directed at two IDF vehicles. The incident occurred some 6 km south of Bhamdun. The families of the dead soldiers have been notified.

A terrorist squad driving in a local vehicle yesterday ambushed the two IDF vehicles at around 1400 as the IDF car was driving along. The terrorists opened bazooka and light arms fire at the vehicles and fled.

Ministerial Differences on Lebanon Reported

TA310720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is here in the studio.

[Schiffer] Good morning. Yesterday security sources in Jerusalem explained that Israel would not attack Syria, and every move it would make in the future on the issue — for example, a unilateral withdrawal — would be coordinated with both the United States and Lebanon.

[Studio commentator] Is there no feeling that Israel is acting as a sort of work horse, from the U.S. point of view, on the one hand, and also from the Lebanese viewpoint; that both of them want it to remain in the insufferable position in which it is now?

[Schiffer] It is true that there is heated discussion in the Cabinet, and there are differences of opinion among the ministers about how Israel should act in view of the attacks against IDF soldiers. The attacks are increasing daily against IDF soldiers. There are those who claim that Israel really is, as you said, acting as a work horse for the United States and Lebanon, since, from the U.S. viewpoint, and also from that of Lebanon, a unilateral Israeli withdrawal at present would be a nightmare because, in the Americans' opinion, an Israeli unilateral withdrawal at present could lead to chaos and the destruction of that delicate fabric they claim they are now building in Lebanon — that is, the Lebanese Administration.

Therefore, there are two views in the Cabinet. One view — and its obvious representative is Deputy Prime Minister David Levi — says that if Israel has signed that agreement with Lebanon it should be given a chance and this is in Israel's interest, that an administration should be created in Lebanon with whom it will be possible to maintain the arrangement. There is another view

— primarily held by former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon — which demands of the government that the IDF be withdrawn right now; that it should be removed from the Ash-Shuf Hills region, and that the IDF should be positioned in an area that would be more convenient from the aspect of safeguarding the IDF soldiers. There is now opposition in the Cabinet to this view.

Inter alia, Defense Minister Moshe Arens is claiming in various forums that Israel is now taking advantage of this time to create ties with the various sects — not only with the Christians in Lebanon — and so we should wait for another few weeks to give the possibility of the Syrians leaving a chance. After that, consultations should be held with the Americans and the Lebanese, before Israel makes a decision about withdrawing its force.

[Studio commentator] According to this, any move made will undoubtedly be made within a few weeks, because there will be consultations with the Americans and time will be set aside for negotiations with the sects in Lebanon. So, a period of time means weeks, at this stage.

[Schiffer] Yesterday security sources explained that Israel would wait for another few weeks until the picture becomes clearer as to whether the Syrians are withdrawing, and until then IDF soldiers will remain where they are. The IDF is taking all precautionary measures according to the security sources. There is a very serious problem in safeguarding the IDF soldiers, from the aspect of the IDF deployment. The IDF is deployed in regions in which there is a population of more than a million people.

There is traffic from regions under Syrian control, to regions under IDF control, and from this it follows that attacks against IDF soldiers are possible. But the current policy is to wait for another few weeks to see how matters evolve, and security circles are also not dismissing the possibility that in the end there may be a situation of a sort of division of Lebanon into two zones of influence, Israeli and Syrian.

Shamir Reaffirms Time Limit

TA300749 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 30 May 83 p 2

["Exclusive" report from Brussels by Daniyel Dagan]

[Text] Yesterday Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Israeli ambassadors to West Europe that Jerusalem would not wait forever for a Syrian answer to the agreement achieved with Lebanon. There were various options for Israeli activity, the minister added, including a change in the deployment of IDF forces in Lebanon.

Shamir was speaking at a meeting of 16 heads of missions in Western Europe held at the Israeli Embassy in Brussels.

The foreign minister said the Syrian opposition to the agreement to date sprang from Damascus' ambition to maintain a permanent presence in Lebanon, and Soviet support for this policy.

The heads of the missions reported on an outstanding improvement that has taken place in Israel's image in Europe after the signing of the agreement with Lebanon. Assessments

were not made of the possibility that the EEC would cancel the steps taken against Israel in the wake of last year's invasion of Lebanon.

Peres Favors Troop Disengagement

TA291415 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1338 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Even if the Syrians return to the deployment prior to the most recent exercise, a disengagement of forces should nevertheless be initiated in Lebanon. This was stated today by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres. On a tour today of the Bedouin settlements, Peres also said the terrorists were an element over which there was no control, and therefore a disengagement of forces would help maintain calm in Lebanon.

Officer on Readiness for 'Unconditional' POW Talks

TA292035 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2015 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 29 May [ITIM] — Israel is prepared, without preconditions, to enter negotiations with the PLO on the release of the Israeli prisoners and missing soldiers held by the terrorist organization. This was stated today by former IDF Manpower Branch Chief Major General Moshe Nativ, who is handling the POW issue, in an interview he granted to the Arabic television correspondent Shlomo Ganor.

He said that since 15 March, the PLO has not allowed the International Red Cross representatives to visit the six IDF soldiers held by Fatah, and that since the beginning of this month nothing has been heard about the condition of the two Israeli prisoners held by Ahmad Jibril's organization.

Maj Gen Nativ noted that despite Israel's readiness to conclude the negotiations on the prisoner exchange without delay, the PLO representatives continue to put obstacles on the road to negotiations. It was disclosed during the interview that one of the latest Israeli proposals was the release of 600 terrorists in return for every Israeli prisoner.

Meanwhile, it was reported that in a manifesto disseminated in southern Lebanon over the last 2 days, and which was signed by the families of the Ansar camp prisoners, the PLO leaders were called upon to conclude the negotiations on the prisoner exchange as soon as possible.

One of the prisoners, a lieutenant colonel nicknamed (Abu Fadi) from the Fatah organization, also called on the PLO leaders to make every effort to end "the tragedy and rescue the prisoners in the Ansar camp."

In the same television broadcast this evening, Arye Eli'av described the contacts made for the release of the prisoners and disclosed that 'Isam as-Sartawi, who was murdered in Portugal 2 months ago, was involved in the efforts to effect a prisoner exchange.

Officials Deny Report

TA301132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Official sources in Jerusalem today denied reports that Israel is willing to conduct direct negotiations with the PLO for the exchange of prisoners. The statement was first made in an interview yesterday on Israel television's Arabic service by the former Head of the Defense Forces' Manpower Division, Major General Moshe Nativ, who is described as still dealing with the freeing of the Israelis being held by the PLO.

The officials this morning told Arye Haskell that Gen Nativ was speaking for himself alone, and that there had been no change in Israel's refusal to hold negotiations with the PLO. The officials added that Israel continues to be in touch on the issue of the prisoners with the International Red Cross.

New Missile Development Nears Completion

TA271456 Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew 27 May 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by Dan Arkin and Tamar Golan]

[Text] In conjunction with REFA'EL [Israel Armament Development Authority], the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] are currently engaged in the final stages of the development of a new anti-missile missile, called "Baraq," which will be placed on board missile boats. The new missile is an antiaircraft and anti-missile missile intended to defend the missile boats. It will also be able to destroy smart bombs. Sources in the IAI have reported that the missile's greatest advantage is that it would be launched from the missileboat deck vertically, will soar upwards at a slow velocity, and will then turn and fly at great speed toward the target. Its speed will be more than twice the speed of sound.

The "Baraq" missile will become operational approximately in 1986, and the Israeli navy's future missileboats will be equipped with a number of missile types, including the "Gavri'el," the "Harpoon," and the "Baraq." Rumors were rife at the Paris air show yesterday that Brazil is looking into possibly purchasing from Israel "Gavri'el" missiles for use in its own navy.

There was uncertainty in Paris yesterday regarding Defense Minister Moshe Arens' arrival there to visit the air show and his expected meeting with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu. On the other hand, the Israeli Embassy in Paris confirmed that Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu and Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i will come to Paris on 29 May. Neither were invited by the French Government or by the directorate of the air salon. The directorate of the Israeli pavilion in the show could likewise not provide any details on the purpose of the ministers' arrivals or the kinds of meetings scheduled for the two.

MENA: 'Informal' OAU Summit To Be Held 5 June
NC271400 Cairo MENA in English 1239 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 27 (MENA) — African heads of state and government who will attend the nineteenth summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) due to open in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on June sixth, will hold an informal summit on June fifth, the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY has learned.

The meeting, MENA further learned, will be devoted to consultations about outstanding issues which had paralysed two previous summits, and attempts to remove any obstacles before the meeting of the formal summit, in order to avoid failure for the third time at the risk of African divisions.

Meanwhile, Egypt has been in contact with various African countries via Egyptian embassies abroad in order to coordinate efforts and try to convene the summit in time.

Reportage on Sixth ECOWAS Summit Meeting

Preparatory Ministerial Meeting Reported
AB280841 Dakar PANA in French 1715 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Dakar, 27 May (PANA) — The deliberations of the extraordinary ECOWAS Ministerial Council on Thursday centered mainly around the community's monetary problems, which constitute one of the most important aspects of the ECOWAS strategy.

The Ministerial Council meeting, held prior to the conference of the heads of state scheduled to take place between 28 and 30 May, was expected to discuss the agenda which the 13th ordinary ECOWAS session, held in Conakry from 5 to 7 May, could not discuss. The ordinary session covered only ECOWAS monetary issues.

In all, 11 currencies are in official use within the territory of the 16-member nation community. The Liberian dollar and the CFA franc are convertible. The Malian franc is pegged to the CFA franc.

According to the final communique issued at the end of the Ministerial Council meeting in the Guinean capital on Thursday, the council took note of the report by the governors asking that ways be found to solve a problem that affects the success of the proposed trade liberalization within the community.

A "West African Compensation Fund" has already been in operation since the Lome summit of 1980. The heads of state adopted this mechanism to deal with the loss in earnings that will inevitably result from the trade liberalization. It was agreed that for 5 years the fund would deduct 20 percent of the compensation due the most industrialized countries for the benefit of the least-developed countries.

The Council of Ministers also adopted a draft decision on the implementation of a unified schedule of liberalization of industrial products originating in member countries.

The ECOWAS ministers also adopted two reports on the postponement of the community games scheduled for 1983 in Benin and on negotiations between the ECOWAS Fund and Upper Volta on an important telecommunications project.

In their report to the Council of Ministers, the outgoing chairman, Beninese Finance Minister Isidore Amoussou and ECOWAS Executive Secretary Ouattara suggested the creation or strengthening of the national committees charged with community affairs. The two officials also spoke on the issue of the "community development fund." This instrument for implementing the community's policy and further strengthening ECOWAS has not yet begun financing projects, they pointed out.

A total of 12 member states, as well as observers from the African Development Bank (ADB), took part in the meeting. The chairman of the Council of Ministers is Mamadou Toure, minister of external trade of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

Summit Opens 28 May

AB290720 Paris AFP in French 1348 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Conakry, 28 May (AFP) — The sixth summit of heads of state and government of ECOWAS opened in Conakry on Saturday. Leaders from 10 countries (Benin, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Togo) and representatives from the Ivory Coast, Niger, Upper Volta, Gambia, and Ghana were present. The Cape Verdian delegation, which was expected on Saturday morning, had not arrived by the opening of the conference, which was presided over by Colonel Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin.

Soon after opening, and at the proposal of the Senegalese leader, Abdou Diouf, Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of Guinea, was elected current chairman of the summit of heads of state, replacing his Beninese counterpart.

ECOWAS leaders, who plan to set up a customs union and a common market grouping 16 West African countries, will discuss in particular ways and means of making the community more dynamic. The meeting should also offer the West African heads of state and government the opportunity, during their informal meetings, to discuss the OAU crisis and to find ways of solving it.

ECOWAS Leaders Address Summit

AB291100 Paris AFP in French 0726 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Conakry, 29 May (AFP) — Speeding up the course of economic and even political integration of ECOWAS was the theme of speeches made during the opening of the summit in Conakry on Saturday. The Guinean head of state, Ahmed Sekou Toure, who was elected chairman of the West African organization that groups 16 countries, set the tone by advocating the formation of communities of the youth, women, workers, universities, and a parliamentary union which would be supportive of ECOWAS. Furthermore, according to the Guinean president, the careful attitude that has hitherto characterized the actions

of the heads of state should be abandoned in favor of a bold and courageous beginning to the process of building a coherent community that would gradually become a supranational entity. Finally, to speed up economic integration, the Guinean head of state advocated the creation of the community's own independent monetary zone in order to overcome the major obstacle created by the existence of many currencies within ECOWAS.

Nigerian President Shehu Shagari stressed the need to implement the resolutions and protocols signed by the states, pointing out that the strategy for West Africa's integration should consist of freeing member-states from the hold of former colonial powers. He implicitly hoped for the dissolution of all West African subregional organizations other than ECOWAS in order to devote all energies and resources to the latter, which is the largest such body. Some observers feel that this proposal, which was also brought up a few months ago by President Sekou Toure, could be of concern to the West African Economic Community (Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, and Ivory Coast) and to the Mano River Union (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone).

Likewise, Liberian leader Samuel Doe affirmed that the proliferation of subregional organizations did not promote the economic integration of West Africa and that all other organizations should become part of the greater entity that ECOWAS constitutes. According to the Liberian president, it must be ensured that the states effectively implement the protocols on trade liberalization and the free movement of people.

All these pronouncements once again pose the problem of the coexistence of numerous subregional organizations in West Africa, of which the most important is undoubtedly ECOWAS. But the latter's lack of dynamism, represented most notably by its nonoperational status 8 years after its founding, favors the smaller organizations that are operational. It is certain, for example, that the French-speaking countries which make up the CEAO (West African Economic Community), which has begun operations, will not easily accept the dissolution this economic entity in favor of ECOWAS, whose operation has been delayed, even though the two have the same objectives: the creation of a customs union and a common market. The supplementary protocol agreement creating ECOWAS stipulates, at the instigation of Senegal, that the existence of other subregional organizations was not incompatible with adherence to ECOWAS.

During the deliberations of the ECOWAS summit, which will end on Monday, the heads of state and government will study in particular the issue of harmonizing the system of trade liberalization.

Eleven heads of state are participating in the Conakry summit: Mathieu Kerekou (Benin), Aristides Pereira (Cape Verde), Ahmed Sekou Toure (Guinea), Joao Bernardo Vieira (Guinea-Bissau), Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydalla (Mauritania), Moussa Traore (Mali), Shehu Shagari (Nigeria), Abdou Diouf (Senegal), Siaka Stevens (Sierra Leone), Samuel Doe (Liberia), and Gnassingbe Eyadema (Togo). Niger is represented by its prime minister, Oumarou Manane, and Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, and Upper Volta by ministerial delegations.

Regional Trade Scheme Announced

AB300730 Paris AFP in English 0710 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Conakry, May 30 (AFP) — The 16-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) summit conference here announced yesterday a multi-stage plan to break down internal trade barriers and appealed to a rival regional grouping to cooperate with it. The heads of state and government also said they would attend next week's Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa. The ECOWAS states were the core of the 19 nations whose boycott or walk out in policy disputes caused the failure of the two previous bids to hold OAU summits in Libya last year.

The trade thrust divided ECOWAS members into three groups, according to level of economic development, and set target periods, beginning at [words indistinct] each to abolish tariffs on manufactured goods they produce. A group of four "advanced" countries — Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal — were given four years to drop tariffs on a list of "priority" manufactures and six years for non-priority items. A "medium" group — Benin, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo — were assigned six and eight years respectively. And a third group, of seven "least-advanced countries" (Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania and Niger), were given eight and 10 years to make the changes.

The summit called on the West African Economic Community (CEAO) comprising six French-speaking states (who all are members at the same time of ECOWAS) — Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal — to coordinate their policies with ECOWAS to avoid duplication and waste of resources and to work towards a customs union and economic integration.

The ECOWAS leaders also took steps to further joint regional industrial development, with emphasis on rural modernisation, transport and communications and energy. There will also be joint project studies, exchanges of information and technicians and, in the longer term, planning for establishment of heavy industry in the region.

Summit Ends 30 May

AB301524 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpts] Conakry, May 30 (AFP) — The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) summit conference ended here today with the announcement of a multi-stage plan to break down trade barriers between member states and an appeal to a rival regional grouping to cooperate with it.

The ECOWAS leaders also discussed setting up a monetary zone in the region and took steps to further joint regional industrial development, with emphasis on rural modernization, transport and communications and energy. There will also be joint project studies, exchanges of information and technicians and, in the longer term, planning for establishing heavy industry.

Before closing the meeting delegates adopted a resolution calling for material assistance for Chad and Central African Republic,

both stricken by drought. The ECOWAS states voted to hold their next summit next May in Accra, the Ghanaian capital, or here.

Niger River Basin Summit Opens 27 May

Toure Addresses Opening Session

*AB271820 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT
27 May 83*

[Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure's address at the opening session of the Niger River Basin Authority summit in Conakry on 27 May 1983 — recorded]

[Excerpt] Excellencies, heads of state and government, ministers, Mr Executive Secretary of the Niger River Basin Authority, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Guinean people, their government, and party, I have the honor to express to you our deep joy and gratitude for the honor you do us with your visit to the African soil of Guinea, where you must feel at home. The Guinean people appreciate this and are proud to host the third summit meeting of our common organization, the Niger River Basin Authority, at a particularly difficult period in the evolution of our people, a difficult period that requires us to think more thoroughly than ever before about our situation, its complex origins, its cyclical causes, and its development and consequences. This will allow us to organize ourselves, attack and uproot our ills, and prepare a solid and lasting basis for our development. It is only under these conditions that we and future generations will become masters of our fate and play a positive role in making major decisions which affect relations between our countries and the rest of the world.

NAN Reports Conakry Summit

AB281242 Lagos NAN in English 1212 GMT 28 May 83

[By Franklin Adeegha and Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Conakry, May 28 (NAN) — President Shagari was yesterday in Conakry elected the new chairman of the Niger Basin Authority for a two-year term. He succeeds President Sekou Toure of Guinea.

Opening the third summit at which the election was made, President Toure called on member-countries of the authority to strive to develop their own natural resources in view of the current world economic recessions. The Guinean leader noted that world price increases of energy as well as economic recession in all industrialised countries were adversely affecting member countries. President Toure said that the authority constituted a dignified platform for a North-South dialogue to examine the problems of the region and find solutions to them.

President Toure urged member-countries to assess the achievements of the authority, its projects and the anticipated benefits.

Member-countries of the authority are Benin, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali, Niger, Chad, Guinea, and Nigeria. The authority was established in 1980 to harness the efforts of member-states to develop the basin for irrigation and hydro-electrical projects.

Correspondents of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Conakry quoted President Toure as saying that the authority was to seek financial assistance of about 46 million naira for a re-afforestation campaign. President Toure said that the move was part of the measures to check deforestation within the basin of the Niger River and called on the nine member-states of the authority to embark on an urgent and vigorous re-afforestation campaign. He suggested that the campaign should be systematically undertaken and that farmers should be trained to avoid the incidence of bush fires.

President Toure also noted that drought was adversely affecting the River Niger adding that its tributaries and sub-tributaries swell considerably during the rainy season, flooding and devastating crops and villages.

He announced that a group of U.S. hydrologists were currently assessing the possibility of controlling the flow of the River Niger with a view to ensuring equitable distribution of water to users along the river.

ALGERIA

Tunisian President Arrives on Visit 29 May
LD292017 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
 29 May 83

[Summary] President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia arrived this morning in Algiers. He was welcomed on arrival at Houari Boumediene International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid.

Political Talks Held

LD301138 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT
 30 May 83

[Text] Algerian-Tunisian political talks were resumed this morning at the presidency with a separate meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general, and President Habib Bourguiba, president of Tunisia. Then the talks were widened to include the Algerian and the Tunisian delegations. On the Algerian side the following members of the Political Bureau took part: Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani; Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed-Taleb Ibrahim; Interior Minister M'hamed Hadj Yala; Brother Boulem Bessaiah, member of the Central Committee and information minister; Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, member of the Central Committee and minister of planning and national development; Brother Abdelghani Akbi, member of the Central Committee and ambassador of Algeria in Tunisia. On the Tunisian side the following took part: Mohamed Mzali, prime minister; Beji Caid es-Sebsi, foreign minister; Lassad Ben Osman, agriculture minister; Tahar Belkhodja, information minister; Abdelaziz Lasram, minister of national economy; and Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian ambassador to Algeria.

Mauritanian President Arrives on Visit 30 May
LD301635 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
 30 May 83

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Mauritanian National Salvation Committee and president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, arrived in Algiers at 1545 this afternoon on a working and friendship visit to our country. He was met at the airport by Chadli Bendjedid, president and secretary general of the party, members of the Political Bureau, and prominent officials of the party and state.

Bendjedid, Haydala Talks Begin

LD310033 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT
 30 May 83

[Excerpt] The Algerian-Mauritanian political talks began in a private meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, and president Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Bendjedid Receives Envoy From Moroccan King
LD291019 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Algiers, 29 May (APS) — Yesterday evening at the Presidential Palace Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, received Mr Abdelhadi, envoy of the Moroccan monarch, who is conveying a message to the president from His Majesty King Hassan II.

The meeting was attended by Mr Larbi Belkhir, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the presidency.

MOROCCO

Reportage on Algerian Interior Minister Visit

Meeting With Prime Minister

LD272334 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT
 27 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Maati Bouabid this morning received Algerian Interior Minister M'hamed Hadj Yala, in the presence of Interior Minister Driss Basri

A number of issues of mutual interest were discussed, including strengthening exchanges between the two fraternal countries in various fields now that the clouds which hung over relations between them have begun to break up, and promoting the idea of the greater Arab Maghreb, and working for crystalizing it into a tangible reality.

It was also agreed to work for adopting unified attitudes among the Arab Maghreb states in issues of mutual interest. They also reviewed the international situation, especially the Middle East problem which receives the attention of officials of the two countries. The meeting, which lasted about 1 hour, took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood, understanding, and frankness.

Afterward, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Dey Ould Sidi Baba received M'hamed Hadj Yala, member of the Political Bureau of the FLN and Algerian interior minister, in the presence of Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri.

During this meeting, cooperation between the parliamentary institutions of the two countries was discussed, as well as the creation of a parliamentary body consisting of members of parliament from Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia to discuss the conditions of the nationals of the Arab Maghreb states with European parliaments.

Problems of the Arab world, and of Africa in general, were also discussed. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the exchange of visits of officials in Morocco and Algeria in the interests of the area and the building of firm foundations of cooperation, integration, and unity. In addition to these points, Dey Ould Sidi Baba and M'hamed Hadj Yala discussed the importance of creating regional groups which seek to realize the idea of cooperation and integration in economic and cultural development.

Minutes Signed*LD281313 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 May 83*

[Text] Rabat, 28 May (MAP) — Last night in Rabat Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Basri and his Algerian counterpart, M'hamed Yala, signed the minutes of the working sessions between the Kingdom's Interior Ministry delegation and the Algerian Interior Ministry delegation. These meetings particularly pertained to the movement of people and properties, the launching of airlines and railways, and cooperation in the fields of local communities, civil protection, cadres, and national security.

The signing ceremony was attended by members of the two delegations.

Press Statement Issued*LD281810 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 May 83*

[Press statement issued following the official visit by Algerian Interior Minister M'hamed Hadj Yala to Morocco]

[Text] As an extension of the historic meeting which took place on 26 February 1983 between the president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN, Chadli Bendjedid; and the king of Morocco, His Majesty King Hassan II, and after the working visit by the interior minister of his majesty's government, Driss Basri, to Algeria 30 March-3 April 1983, M'hamed Yala, member of the FLN Political Bureau and Algerian minister of the interior, paid a visit to Morocco at the head of an important delegation 25-27 May 1983 at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart.

During his visit to Morocco, M'hamed Yala, who carried a message from President Chadli Bendjedid, had the honor of being received by His Majesty King Hassan II. This visit was an opportunity for M'hamed Yala to hold talks with a number of Moroccan officials, including in particular: the prime minister of his majesty's government, Maati Bouabid; the speaker of the House of Deputies, Day Ould Sidi Baba; and the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, Mohamed Boucetta. In addition, the Algerian interior minister's stay was distinguished by a series of talks with his Moroccan counterpart.

During these talks, which were characterized by a spirit of fraternity, openness, and mutual understanding, the two officials reviewed the principle issues, particularly concerning relations between the two brotherly countries.

The two sides expressed their utmost satisfaction with the development of relations between the two countries and agreed to make all efforts to normalize the relations of solidarity and mutuality between the two brotherly countries, and to work together relentlessly with the aim of overcoming all the difficulties and removing all the obstacles that might prevent the normalization embarked upon as contribution to building a united and prosperous Arab Maghreb.

As a result of the talks a number of significant measures aimed

at free and gradual movement of people and property were adopted: reopening air routes from the beginning of June 1983, and rail links at the earliest possible date, as soon as technical problems are overcome; developing and intensifying cooperation at various levels concerning local communities, civil protection, telecommunications, national security, and cadres.

As a result of the inspiration derived from the deep significance of the 26 February 1983 meeting between His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Hassan II, and considering the importance of strengthening the dynamics of cooperation between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco, the two delegations agreed to expand communications between the two brotherly countries to include the posts, telecommunications, health, trade, and tourism sectors.

At the conclusion of these talks, which were held in an atmosphere of trust and in a spirit of fraternity, the two sides renewed their commitment to work for the materialization of these constructive actions and for the realization of the noble objectives of rapprochement and of strengthening and bolstering solidarity among the Arab Maghreb countries.

Predeparture Statement*LD301424 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 30 May 83*

[Text] Algiers May 30 (MAP) — Algerian home minister, Had M'hamed Yala returned back home on Saturday after an official visit to Morocco at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart, Mr Driss Basri.

In a statement to newsmen before leaving Rabat, Had Yala expressed satisfaction at the talks he had with Moroccan officials and at the meeting he had with King Hassan II of Morocco. These talks, he said, were held in a friendly atmosphere.

He added that the meetings held by the two countries delegations constituted a new step towards the consolidation of bilateral relations and the edification of the grand Maghreb.

At the end of Had Yala's visit to Morocco, a joint press communique was released in which the two parties stated that they had reviewed issues interesting both countries. The communique added that the two home ministers expressed satisfaction at the evolution of relations between the two countries and agreed to spare no efforts for the normalization of relations of solidarity. They also agreed to endeavor in order to settle all difficulties and eliminate all obstacles in view to contribute to the edification of a united and prosperous grand Maghreb.

The two parties decided the following: the free and progressive circulation of persons and goods,

-The re-establishment of air connections beginning June and of the railways as soon as possible,

-The development of cooperation at the multiple levels of local communities, civil protection, national police and staff training.

"Considering the profound significance of the meeting, February 26, 1983, between His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and HM King Hassan II, and also considering the necessity to further develop the cooperation process triggered between the Algerian Democratic and Popular Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco, the two delegations agreed to intensify contacts and extend them mainly to the sectors of postal and services and telecommunications health, commerce and tourism", added the press communique.

MAURITANIA

Statement Issued on Haydala Algeria, Guinea Visits

AB301848 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpts] The head of state left this morning for Algiers, Algeria. On this occasion, the CMSN issued the following communique:

At the invitation of His Excellency Chadli Benjedid, secretary general of the FLN and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, president of the CMSN and head of state, left the capital this morning for Algiers, Algeria, where he will attend the Maghreb summit.

It should be recalled that the president returned yesterday to Nouakchott from Conakry, Guinea, where he attended the sixth summit of the ECOWAS. On arrival yesterday, the head of state was met at the airport by Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, prime minister, and minister of national defense;

CMSN and government officials; the governor of Nouakchott; and other high-level officials.

Concerning the president's participation at the ECOWAS summit, the following statement was issued: I have just returned from Conakry where I attended the sixth summit of the ECOWAS which was conducted in a atmosphere of brotherhood and African solidarity. At the end of this summit, during which the results of the 8 years' of the organization's existence were reviewed, important decisions were adopted. A decision was made to implement the policy of free exchange of industrial products originating from member-states, a decision which aims at establishing in the long run a customs union in the subregion [words indistinct] for 10 years with measures to enable us to attain [words indistinct] of the schedule. Regarding the decision on cooperation policies in the industrial sector, member-states were asked to give priority to industries that contribute to the modernization and development of the following sectors: agriculture, livestock and forestry, transport and telecommunications infrastructures, energy, and the decision relating to the cooperation program for development, a program which aims at streamlining and integrating the economies of member-states.

Other than attending the summit sessions, the president added: I held talks with most of my colleagues. The talks enabled us to make an educated review of current political events in Africa and the world, and to discuss the ways and means of strengthening and consolidating our bilateral cooperation. The head of state added that it is within this framework that during consultations on the serious crisis facing the OAU, the ECOWAS heads of state accepted and decided to go to Addis Ababa to attend the 19th summit scheduled for 10-11 June 1983.

SUDAN

Presidential Decrees Name New Government Officials

Ministers of State

JN281450 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1438 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today issued a republican decree under which the following ministers of state are appointed:

Minister of State for:
Construction and Public Works
Labor and Social Security
National Guidance and Information
Administration Affairs at the President's Office
Internal Affairs

Abel Alier
Badr ad-Din Muhammad Sulayman Ahmad
Muhammad Mahjub Sulayman
Ahmad Shaykh Idris Manna'
Mrs Miri Basyuni

President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued a second decree appointing the following presidential advisers with the rank of minister:

Adviser for:
Social Services and Care
Educational Affairs
Manpower Affairs
Decentralization Affairs

Mubarak 'Uthman Sinadah
Sirr al-Khatm al-Khalifah
Haydar Muhammad Kabsun
Yusuf Mikha'il Najib

Legal Affairs
 Political Affairs
 Agricultural Affairs
 Information Affairs
 Production and Development Affairs
 Legal Affairs, with the rank of Minister of State
 at the Cabinet Secretariat
 Security Affairs, delegated by the
 Ministry of Defense

Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi
 Dr Ahmad as-Sayyid Hamad
 Dr 'Umar al-Amin
 Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq
 Muhammad Dawud al-Khalifah
 Ahmad 'Uthman as-Siba'i

Brigadier General Ahmad Idris

Attorney General, Other Officials

JN281526 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today issued a republican decree appointing:

Attorney General [Na'ib 'Am]
 Governor of Khartoum Province, with rank of Minister
 Governor of Sudan Central Bank

Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr
 Babakr 'Ali at-Tawm
 Faruq Ibrahim al-Maqbul

Presidential Decree Creates New Ministry

JN281902 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today issued a republican decree under which a Ministry of Labor and Social Security will be created to draw up the state's general policy in the field of labor, social security, trade union work, training cadres needed for this mission, and caring for workers education. The ministry will be made up of a labor department, a trade union registration bureau, and an administration and production development center.

The minister of labor and social security will supervise the general establishment of the social security. Therefore, the president of the republic has issued a republican decree under which the minister of labor and social security will become a minister responsible for (?regulations), laws and the bylaws related to them. These are the personal labor relations law for the year 1974, the personal labor relations law for the year 1981, the industrial relations law for the year 1976, the man and maid servants law for the year 1955, and trade unions law for the year 1977, the employers law for the year 1953, the general establishment of the social security law for the year 1974, the general establishment of workers education for the year 1970, and the peasants organizations law for the year 1976.

Numayri Issues Order of Day to Armed Forces

JN272124 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 27 May (SUNA) — Field Marshal Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, minister of defense and commander in chief of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces, has issued the Order of the Day No 12 to the officers, NCO's, and soldiers on the role of the People's Armed Forces in protecting Sudan's national and geographical unity. The commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces greeted the officers, NCO's, and soldiers on the anniversary of the May Revolution of which they were the vanguards and are still its protectors. He added that when this revolution broke out, through the revolution's protectors and the

help of the alliance forces [quwah at-tahaluf], it managed to fulfill its principles. This revolution will continue on the same path to bolster what it has already fulfilled.

On this occasion the commander in chief pledged to the officers, NCO's, and soldiers to stay among them as a comrade-in-arms, honored to serve in the People's Armed Forces, the greatest patriotic institution in our country whether due to its formation in which the entire Sudan is represented or to its defensive missions.

The commander in chief added that the fate of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces in this historical stage is to continue to confront anything threatening Sudan's unity, position and inhabitants. This role which is closely connected to the formation of the People's Armed Forces, its deployment, and the distribution of its units [words indistinct] imposes on these forces in the present stage the need to be more ready to carry out this role and to be more prepared to face any [word indistinct] repercussions jeopardizing Sudan's national and geographical unity.

The commander in chief outlined the dimensions of this role as follows:

1. Sudan's national and geographical unity conflicts with international and regional strategic ambitions which see that Sudan, in its size and under its balanced policy which rejects polarization and subjugation, threatens its objectives not only in Sudan but also in the Arab and African arenas.

2. Sudan's national and geographical unity within the framework of its policy is based on good-neighborliness and an even handed cooperation, particularly with the neighboring countries. Under this policy, Sudan rejects becoming either a gateway, a lodging place, or a party to any fabricated conflict with any of the neighboring countries. This has turned Sudan into an obstacle to the international and regional ambitions aiming to gradually control the African Continent, using different slogans.

3. Sudan's national and geographical unity, under which Sudan was able to abort numerous plots and moves aimed against

fraternal African states, equally constitutes an obstacle to those strategies and ambitions.

4. When Sudan, in its national and geographical unity, rejects the attempts to polarize it to become a party to regional and international conflicts or to involve it into regional alliances in the first stage and in international alliances in a later stage, it stands as the first defensive line in the African Continent and the Arab region in the face of the attempts to fall under the international and regional control. Therefore, Sudan's national and geographical unity conflicts with this strategy and its subsidiaries.

5. Sudan's steadfastness during the past 14 years was marked by remarkable achievements in various spheres and that the following accomplishments have been achieved:

a. The drawing up of the constitutional structure represented in the Constitution and the other constitutional and executive institutions built on the provisions of the constitution.

b. The drawing up of the political structure represented in the political system that has not been frozen throughout this period but has been developed from the inside to cope with the various circumstances and changes in the different stages.

c. The drawing up of the economic structure represented in particular in the completion of the infrastructure projects, roads projects, and other great production projects.

d. Pulling Sudan out of the domination of the one economic production represented in the investment in Sudan's agricultural and livestock wealths and introducing it to the agricultural-industrial and industrial investments in addition to the discovery of oil, which gives a momentum to the Sudanese economy in various fields.

e. Due to the course Sudan has adopted in the past stage which is based on the overall investment of the resources in Sudan, the present stage poses a danger to those wagering on and working to fragment Sudan's national and geographical unity under the pretext of the imbalance in the economic developments in various parts of Sudan.

f. The decentralization of power by establishing regional governments, which have already begun to rule, has prevented any exploitation of the negative aspects of the centralization of power to revive opportunistic trends in the various regions of Sudan. Hence we can understand the intensification of the efforts to harm Sudan's national and geographic unity. These efforts have been in a race with time because the division and disunity in the country has almost disappeared. Hence we can define the aims of the hostile external moves against Sudan's national and geographic unity and the attempts to reactivate tools to undermine the national and geographic unity as follows:

1. Devoting the country's military, economic, and political efforts to confronting threats of division. This will hamper the development plans.

2. Shaking belief in the regional government system and return-

ing to the central government system under the pretext of national security and defense.

3. Raising doubts about the country's ability to continue development plans, especially with regard to exploiting mineral resources. This would end the spirit of trust and love among the people in which national unity has grown over the past 14 years.

4. Forcing Sudan, during crises which threaten national unity, to either submit and appease international and regional ambitions or ally itself with other international and regional powers, which forces Sudan to be a party in the international power struggle.

5. Making Egyptian-Sudanese integration face a very difficult test when it is about to realize its objectives. This integration has become a model and a base for Arab and African integration. Integration is a very strong connection between peoples, protecting them against moves to undermine the national unity of anyone of them. The president said that these are the aims of the plot. These aims expose those who weave this plot. They have attempted to control all of Sudanese territory through a series of plots in 1971, 1975, and 1976. The people and their armed forces confronted and defeated these plots. These same forces are now attempting, through their money and agents, to create trouble in one part of Sudan as a first step to destroying national unity all over the homeland. The president also said: Our role in the armed forces is to use deterrent action against these forces, their agents, and those who implement their plots. However, there are certain precautionary measures which must be implemented immediately and with the greatest efficiency. These are:

1. Discipline must be adhered to by both individuals and units, because discipline is the main defense line against attempts to penetrate and infiltrate by units and formations.

2. Morale must be raised by enlightening the soldiers, exposing enemy plots, and highlighting successes of the armed forces in exposing and defeating these plots.

3. Security and (?intelligence) work should be intensified with the aim of revealing the moves of the agents, mercenaries, and infiltrators early and directly.

4. The People's Armed Forces must reaffirm their national identity and their affiliation with a unified Sudan. They must know their role of protecting the people and nation against hostile plots.

5. The People's Armed Forces should monitor the strategic positions likely to be targets for threats by agents, infiltrators, and mercenaries. These positions should be given an extremely high degree of protection. These positions will be targets for their national, rather than economic, significance.

6. The People's Armed Forces should spread awareness and readiness to populated areas around them, in addition to spreading awareness on the national level. Competent departments and branches of the People's Armed Forces should carry out these orders in accordance with their respective duties.

ETHIOPIA

Envoy Gives Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Mengistu
LD302025 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries
 1530 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam today received a message from Brother Mu'ammad al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. The message from the Libyan leader was delivered to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam at his COPWE office by Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the secretary of the Committee of the Peoples Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Jamahiriyyah.

Reportage on Eritrean Separatist Actions

60 Ethiopians Claimed Killed
EA272246 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea
in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 27 May 83

[Summary] Sixty enemy soldiers were killed, about 90 wounded, and 14 Kalashnikovs and one revolver captured by the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front] in the fighting on the Nacfa front on 25 May.

26 May Battle Report

EA281847 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea
in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 28 May 83

[Summary] One hundred and thirty-five enemy soldiers were killed, about 210 wounded, and two taken prisoner by the EPLF, [Eritrean People's Liberation Front], along with 44 Kalashnikov assault rifles, and [word indistinct] pistols in fighting on the Nacfa front on 26 May 1983.

Somali Front on Fighting

EA291837 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somalia and Abo
Liberation Front in Somali to Western Somalia 1200 GMT
29 May 83

[Text] The Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] launched a major attack against the black colonial Abyssinian forces stationed near Nacfa on 25 and 26 May. In the ensuing fighting, 205 Abyssinian soldiers were killed, 315 others wounded, and 3 taken prisoner.

In the bitter struggle, the enemy forces of the black Abyssinian colonialists lost a very large quantity of military hardware, including 82 assorted rifles which were captured by the gallant EPLF fighters. The reports add that the Abyssinians and their allies have reinforced their positions and that the pitched battle between the EPLF fighters and the forces of the Abyssinian colonialists is still going on.

An EPLF spokesman told reporters that although the Abyssinian forces are using helicopter gunships made and flown by the

Soviets, MIG's and other warplanes against the EPLF fighters, villages, livestock, and any moving thing in Eritrea, the courageous people of the EPLF will emerge victorious in the long run. The spokesman appealed to the international community and especially to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to come and witness the remains of the napalm bombs, cluster bombs, and nerve gas weapons used not only against the EPLF but also against the general public of Eritrea and their livestock.

KENYA

Moi Intercedes for Malawi Opposition Leader
AB301714 Paris AFP in English 1652 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Nairobi, May 30 (AFP) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi today appealed to Malawian President Hastings Kamuzu Banda to pardon opposition leader Orton Chirwa and his wife Vera who were sentenced to death in Malawi early this month.

In his appeal, released here today by the official KENYA NEWS AGENCY, Mr Moi said he was fully aware that the two were given "due recourse" to the Malawian law courts, "but this plea is on humanitarian grounds." The Kenyan president added that he was appealing in his capacity as Organisation of African Unity chairman.

Mr. and Mrs. Chirwa were sentenced to death on May 5 after a Malawian traditional court found them guilty of leading the anti-government Dar es Salaam-based Malawi Freedom Movement (Mafremo).

The Chirwas fled Malawi one and a half years ago and set up legal practice in Tanzania before they said they were abducted on the Zambian-Malawi border early last year by Malawian police agents.

'Local Dignitaries' May Not Travel Abroad
EA271722 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT
27 May 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today exhorted the police force to adhere to their oath of allegiance to serve and protect wananchi in the spirit of nyayo [footsteps]. President Moi further charged the police force with the task of combating crime in their onerous duty of maintaining peace in this country. He said that the police force would earn respect from all if they could uphold their motto of service to all with devotion. President Moi was addressing police recruits, police officers, and wananchi at a passing out parade at the Kenya Police Training College, Kiganjo.

The President directed the police to enforce the laws of this country by stopping land speculators from collecting funds from wananchi after making false promises that they would buy land from them. He added that he had recently directed that such illegal practices must stop and he expected the police to enforce the directive by arresting those still collecting such funds.

The president reminded the police that licenses for collecting any funds for wananchi should be issued by the district commissioner. And he asked police to get involved in the administration of harambee [self-help] funds throughout the republic, adding that in future all harambee funds should be banked and properly used under the strict supervision of the administration police.

Turning to the forthcoming election, the president declared that it is not yet time for the polls. He said the police must protect wananchi from harassment from politicians and asked wananchi to cast their votes wisely. President Moi further banned local dignitaries interested in the coming elections and their allies from travelling out of the country with effect from today. He said: The restriction will remain in force until after the September general elections. He said the move would protect wananchi from being misled during the elections, adding: No one will go out to solicit funds for political campaigns. President Moi instructed the police to be vigilant and ensure that only authorized aircraft landings were allowed in all parts of the country, cautioning that all airfields must be watched carefully. The president dispelled fears among some people that he had been too lenient in dealing with lawbreakers by declaring that he is not a coward, but all he wanted was justice and fair play.

TANZANIA

Foreign Minister Comments on Talks With Shultz

EA272351 Dares Salaam in English to East Africa 1600 GMT 27 May 83

[Excerpt] New York: The American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, has failed to allay African leaders' doubts about the Reagan administration's attitude over Namibia. Mr Shultz had a meeting last night with the foreign ministers of the frontline states to discuss delay in bringing the South African-occupied territory to statehood.

The foreign minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, described the meeting as useful, but he and Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, said they were still skeptical about U.S. policy. Ndugu Salim said the meeting was aimed at exchanging views. It was never intended to be a substantive meeting to get any breakthrough on any given issue.

UGANDA

Obote Seeks Talks With Sudan, Zaire on Refugees

AB281234 Paris AFP in French 0951 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] Kampala, 28 May (AFP) — Ugandan President Milton Obote announced on Friday that his government wished to open negotiations with Sudan and Zaire on the return of Ugandan refugees living in these two countries.

"There is no reason to maintain Ugandan nationals in exile," declared President Obote at a public meeting in Bushenyi (south of the country), on the occasion of the third anniversary of his return to the country, after spending 9 years in exile in Tanzania.

Most of the refugees living in eastern Zaire and southern Sudan are, like former dictator Idi Amin, natives of the West Nile Province.

Mr Obote also announced that surveillance at the borders would be increased in order to combat smuggling. Finally, he said that, from now on, all gold dealers would be authorized to sell the precious metal to the Ugandan Central Bank, a move designed to put an end to illicit sales abroad.

Daily Reports 50 Unidentified Bodies Found

AB291405 Paris AFP in French 1006 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Kampala, 29 May (AFP) — Fifty unidentified bodies were found early this week in the village of Masuliita (Mpigi District, west of Kampala), the Ugandan daily *Munno* reported on Saturday. According to the newspaper, the bodies, some of which had gun or knife wounds and others signs of malnutrition, were dumped in the village by unidentified men who were on board a truck.

In recent months in Uganda, many people have been victims of unidentified killers. On many occasions, President Obote's regime accused antigovernment guerrillas of committing these crimes. The Mpigi District was recently the scene of an offensive launched by government forces against the guerrillas.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Cabinet Reshuffled, New Foreign Minister Named*AB280951 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 28 May 83*

[Text] Bangui, May 28 (AFP) — Central African military head of state Andre Kolingba has dismissed his minister for trade and industry, Captain Denis Wangao, in a "technical" government reshuffle.

The new government, appointed yesterday, brought newcomer Lieutenant Michel Salle into the ruling Military Committee for National Recovery [CMRH] as foreign minister, replacing Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Louis Gervil Yambala who was named minister of state for trade and industry, with responsibility for industrial development.

General Kolingba moved Brigadier General Abel Nado to the Ministry of Public Works and Urban Affairs in a swap with Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Mapouka, who was appointed minister of state for energy and water power.

Lt Col Yambala was also put in charge of industrial development, following the sacking of the high commissioner for industrial development, Jacob Gbeti, announced yesterday. General Kolingba also dismissed the director general of the Social Security Department, Joseph Potolot-Ngbangadimbo.

The new Central African Cabinet, comprising four ministers of state, twelve ministers and one secretary of state, is as follows:

Chairman of the CMRN; Head of state, government, and the armed forces; Minister of Defense

Ministers of State for:

Agriculture and Livestock

Economy and Finances

Energy and Water Power

Trade and Industry

Ministers of:

Foreign Affairs

Justice

Public Works and Urban Affairs

Interior

Water, Forests, and Tourism

Education

Civil Service, Labour and Social Security

Public Health

Transport and Civil Aviation

Posts and Telecommunications

Social Affairs

Information

Secretary of State for National Defense

General Andre Kolingba

Lieutenant Colonel Alphonse Gombadi

Lieutenant General Sylvestre Bangui

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Mapouka

Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Louis Gervil-Yambala

Lieutenant Michel Salle

Brigadier Sylvestre Yangongo

Brigadier General Abel Nado

Lieutenant Colonel Christophe Grelombe

Lieutenant Colonel Sebastien Guipi

Lieutenant Colonel Antoine Gambi

Quartermaster Alphonse Kongolo

Major Gabriel Ngaindoro

Major Evariste Konzale

Major Emmanuel Mokolo

Captain Gaston Gambor

Captain Guillaume Lapo

Lieutenant Colonel Francois Diallo

CHAD

GUNT Minister Affirms OAU Summit Participation*AB270950 Paris AFP in French 0741 GMT 27 May 83*

[Text] Paris, 27 May (AFP) — A delegation representing Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] will attend the upcoming OAU summit, scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in early June. This was affirmed on Thursday by Mahamat Nour, the GUNT minister of foreign affairs, during a stay in Paris.

After describing the invitation sent to Hissein Habre to participate in the OAU summit as a "simple administrative act," Mr Nour stated that the GUNT will be present "to make legality prevail." "It is up to the secretary general and the current

chairman of the OAU to make a decision on Chad. The OAU must assume its responsibilities. We stand by the Lagos accords of 1979 and the Nairobi resolution of 1981," which recognize the legitimacy of the GUNT.

Mr Nour termed the recent battle at Ounianga-Kebir (extreme north of Chad) between the GUNT forces and those of the Ndjamen government a "great victory." The "rebels," he said, suffered great losses: 459 dead, 62 wounded, and 1,016 prisoners.

Mr Nour categorically denied the presence of Libyan forces among the GUNT soldiers. "It is an alibi used by Hissein Habre in his attempt to internationalize the Chadian conflict," said Mr Nour, who did not rule out the possibility that foreign intervention might soon occur. He referred in particular to Zaire, which, he stated, is ready to send troops there.

"Hissein Habre," he continued, "receives a lot of arms." "France," according to him, "recently sent light automatic sub-machine guns to Ndjamena, and Israel, through Zaire, supplies the Ndjamena authorities with equipment seized from the PLO in Lebanon."

Mr Nour said the determination of the GUNT, — "now completely united," — is to win and "to free Chad" from what he called "Hissein Habre's dictatorship."

GHANA

Army Commander Denies Arms Purchased From Libya
AB271725 Dakar PANA in English 1715 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Accra, May 27, 83 (GNA/PANA) — Ghana has not purchased any arms and ammunitions from Libya, Army Commander Brigadier Arnold Quainoo has said here. Reacting to persistent claims by Ghanaian university students, church leaders and the professional bodies association that the ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) has used almost all of the country's meagre foreign exchange resources on arms purchases from Libya, Brigadier Quainoo made it clear that the Army had received arms and ammunition from Libya as outright gifts made in the spirit of friendship by the government and people of Libya. He said Ghana had also received crude oil worth 17.7 million dollars as well as food and drugs from Libya in the same spirit of friendship and solidarity.

He disclosed, however, that since December 31, 1981, the Ghana had purchased ammunition to the total value of 823,506.20 dollars from Spain and Belgium which he said were necessary to replenish stocks already expended. Payments for the ammunition were made from foreign exchange earned from non-traditional sources, Brigadier Quainoo said.

LIBERIA

Doe Returns From ECOWAS Summit, Issues Statement
AB302135 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpt] The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, returned home today from Conakry, Guinea, after heading the Liberian delegation at the sixth summit of ECOWAS. The Liberian leader was among 16 heads of state and representatives of government who attended the meeting at the Palace of Nations in Conakry, Guinea. Liberia also participated in the summit meeting of the Niger Basin Authority which was held prior to the convening of the ECOWAS conference.

According to an Executive Mansion press release issued in Monrovia today and quoted by LINA [LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY], the Liberian leader said he considered his 5-day visit to Conakry as most rewarding. He said the visit afforded him the opportunity to obtain a better understanding of and appreciation for the Guinean people, and to confer with his colleagues of the community on matters relating to economic, social, and cultural interaction among member states. The Liberian leader expressed profound appreciation to President Sekou Toure and the brotherly people of Guinea for the very warm and cordial reception accorded him and his delegation during their stay in that country. Dr Doe said he was most impressed with the achievements of Guinea and the revolutionary spirit that has propelled Guinea's development over the years. Referring to the Niger Basin Authority meeting, Dr Doe said he was grateful to his brother, President Toure, for the invitation extended to Liberia to participate in the conference in Conakry. Dr Doe said he emerged from the ECOWAS meeting with a strong conviction

that economic and cultural cooperation among smaller regional groups can help accelerate the pace of development in the larger communities such as ECOWAS. Head of State Doe noted that the ECOWAS summit was conducted in a frank but very cordial atmosphere and he felt certain that their deliberations will prove very fruitful for the improvement of the West African Economic Community.

Referring to specific issues discussed at the summit, Dr Doe noted that the communique was signed outlining decisions reached at the meeting, which is being released to the press. He, however, noted that ECOWAS states adopted a resolution expressing their unanimous determination to do everything possible to overcome the crisis which exists in the OAU and to safeguard this organization. Dr Doe said he had advocated to his colleague the adoption of a unified action that will allow the chairman of the OAU to increase the contact group established in Libya. He further suggested that for the benefit of the OAU, the group should be increased from 12 members to a number that would constitute a quorum for the benefit of those willing to attend the Addis Ababa summit but did not go to Tripoli. As a result of this intervention, Dr Doe noted that consensus was reached that all member states would attend the summit, either by heads of state or top-level delegations.

Sierra Leone Refugees 'Could Reach 3,000'

AB271755 Paris AFP in English 1737 GMT 27 May 83

[By James Dorbor]

[Excerpt] Monrovia, May 27 (AFP) — More than 2,000 people have fled into Liberia from neighboring Sierra Leone to escape violent unrest in recent days, according to the Liberian immigration chief at the border post.

First Lieutenant D. Festus Zeon told AFP yesterday that 2,060 had been recorded so far and that the figure could reach 3,000. Three-quarters of the fugitives are women and children, he said. Lieutenant Zeon also said that two of the children had died from malaria, but said the rest were in good health. The fugitives are temporarily living in several villages around the border. Supplies of drugs to treat the severe wounds many of them are suffering from were said to be running out.

MALI

Traore Returns From ECOWAS Summit 30 May

AB301626 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpt] The sixth summit of ECOWAS heads of state and government, which began in Conakry last Saturday, ended this morning. The president of the republic has just returned to Bamako. He was met on arrival by General Amadou Baba Diarra, members of the Central Executive Bureau, of the government, of the Bureau of the National Assembly and of the diplomatic corps.

Joint Border Commission With Niger To Be Set Up
AB301447 Paris AFP in French 1330 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Bamako, 30 May (AFP) — Mali and Niger have decided to set up a joint commission to study and demarcate their border. This was contained in a joint communique issued in Bamako on Sunday evening following the 4-day visit to Mali by Niger minister delegate to the Interior Ministry, Amadou Fiti Maiga.

The Niger Minister and his Malian counterpart, Abdoullahmane Maiga, held talks on the border dispute between the two countries and reached an agreement on all the issues discussed, the communique added.

Finally, the communique pointed out that the Malian and Niger delegations expressed the desire to hold periodic meetings between the administrative officials of the two countries as well as a meeting before next September of their technical departments to draw up a protocol agreement for Malian cattle to pass through Niger on the way to Nigeria.

NIGER

Government Denies Goukouni Soldiers Given Refuge
AB310840 Paris AFP in French 0756 GMT 31 May 83

[Text] Niamey, 31 May (AFP) — It was learned from official sources in Niamey that Niger denied charges on Monday of granting refuge to soldiers loyal to former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei.

The denial refers to a news item from the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) which was taken up by the Khartoum office of AFP. The item claims that four deserters from the Army of the former Chadian president had arrived in Niamey. The item also says Libya had recently sent planes and bombers to the Aozou region, northern Chad, to fight the government forces of Hissein Habre.

According to officials of the Niger Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, "Niger's attitude toward the situation prevailing in Chad has always been one of strict neutrality and good neighborliness." "Niger, therefore, does not want to involve itself in the internal affairs of Chad," these sources indicated.

NIGERIA

AFP: Planes Reportedly Bombing Lake Chad
AB271542 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Ndjamena, May 27 (AFP) — Towns of the Lake Chad region northwest of Ndjamena have been under heavy bombardment from Nigerian planes since yesterday, according to sources here today. The sources said three MIG aircraft bombarded the town of Bagassola three times, leaving several dead and wounded among the local population. Twenty people aboard a boat had drowned after it sank as a result of being shot at from the air, the sources, who asked to remain anonymous, said.

On Wednesday Nigerian Foreign Minister Ishaya Audu denied that Nigerian planes had bombarded Chadian territory, following reports earlier this week of bombarding by Nigerian planes in the region.

According to the sources here, the border between the two countries also still remained closed. The border was closed by the Nigerians following bloody clashes between soldiers of the two states last month, but was reported to have been since reopened under an agreement between Ndjamena and Lagos.

Shagari Returns From ECOWAS Summit 30 May
AB302140 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 30 May 83

[Excerpt] President Shehu Shagari returned to Lagos this evening from Conakry, Guinea, where he led the Nigerian delegation to the sixth ECOWAS summit. Members of the delegation included the minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu; Information, Garba Wushishi; the acting minister of science and technology, Mr Ademola Thomas; and the special adviser on economic affairs, Professor (Mohamed Obotewo).

Shagari Blames Opponents for Shortages
AB261925 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 26 May 83

[Text] Lagos, May 26 (AFP) — Nigerian President Shehu Shagari has blamed his political opponents for the scarcity of essential goods and the resultant inflation in the country, the *Punch* newspaper reported today.

According to the independent daily President Shagari told a political rally in Bauchi, northern Nigeria, that his political adversaries had bought up and stored in various warehouses all essential commodities so as to put the blame for their scarcity on his administration.

President Shagari, who is seeking another four-year term on the platform of the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN), said that his regime was aware of those seeking to use the scarcity of goods and the austerity measures as weapons to destabilize Nigeria. "We are looking into all these and at the appropriate time we shall take the necessary actions," he said. The president, however, promised to "flood" Nigerian markets with essential consumer goods by July at the latest. General elections are to be held in August.

A section of the Nigerian press has been blaming the scarcity on the illegal immigrants expelled from the country last February who were alleged to have bought and taken home large quantities of [words indistinct] detergents, toiletries, soaps, milk, and other provisions. Manufacturers here argue that import restrictions by government and the non-availability of raw materials hamper their production.

UPPER VOLTA

Ouedraogo Says Military To Return to Barracks

*AB272125 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 27 May 83*

[Address by Head of State Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo to the nation in Ouagadougou on 27 May 1983 — live]

[Text] People of Upper Volta: On 7 November 1982, a group of patriotic, resolute, sincere, and honest officers, noncommissioned officers, and members of the rank-in-file assumed the responsibility of putting an end to the Military Committee of Redress for National Salvation regime, which had earlier toppled the Third Republic, and which had become bogged down and cut off from the mass organizations that had helped it achieve power. Since then, all Upper Voltans and the international community as a whole have been watching events here, some with skepticism and anxiety, and others with hope and enthusiasm.

The Provisional People's Salvation Council, later the People's Salvation Council [CSP], had noble ambitions which it announced to the nation in its 10 December 1982 message. The message was further explained and elaborated in the plan of action announced on 7 May 1983. Some measures were taken, and positive steps were being made. Unfortunately, within the CSP — worse still, within the National Armed Forces — there was no real unanimity concerning the commitment made to dismantle political movements and to put an end to ideological wrangling. And yet, that commitment was the best way for the CSP to achieve its objectives, which were wisely restricted and realistic. The differences that existed at the beginning, but which we managed to overcome, suddenly resurfaced, and took on more alarming proportions with each passing day, thus undermining our commitments, national unity, and the cohesion of both the CSP and the Army. Aware of that danger, I ceaselessly called for realism, reason, and a sense of responsibility on the part of everyone. Unfortunately, my words were not heeded, and, once again, we ended up with a stalemate. Today, the state machinery has broken down. The extreme politicization of our Armed Forces created internal wrangling motivated essentially by ideological considerations. This situation was on the brink of irredeemably jeopardizing the cohesion and discipline that ensure the strength of any Army worth the name.

Such a bitter and even painful observation calls for immediate solutions to ensure the preservation of internal peace and national unity and the reconciliation of all people in order to jointly build our country. Prompted by this objective, I, chairman of the CSP, on the basis of deep thought and consultations, have decided the following:

1. The immediate return of the military to the barracks;
2. The release from detention of military personnel and civilians imprisoned for purely political reasons;
3. Other measures concerning dignitaries of the previous regime will be taken within a short time;

4. The drawing up of a draft constitution within 6 months.

The return of the soldiers to the barracks is motivated by our desire to restore trust and cohesion among the soldiers whose traditional mission is to defend the territorial integrity and to safeguard internal security and peace. The withdrawal of the Armed Forces from political life implies the dissolution of the following CSP bodies: the General Assembly, the Permanent Secretariat, and the Supervisory Commission. It goes without saying that in the transitional period, the CSP chairman, who remains the head of state, will hold consultations, if the need arises, with soldiers of all ranks and conditions under normal circumstances.

We are convinced that, despite the imminence of a return to constitutional life, all Upper Voltans, all partners of Upper Volta without exception, will continue to give frank and loyal assistance to the president and his government in the interest of our people.

If, by itself, the Army has decided to withdraw from political life, it is because it is aware that the ideological differences that are common here are no longer a source of emulation and progress when the protagonists are soldiers. We want to avert forever the spectre of a civil war. We want to reconcile all Upper Voltans in order to unite their strength to free themselves from underdevelopment and to construct social justice. It is this desire for peace that led us to decide to free all officers detained for purely political reasons. They will all return to the barracks and will be called upon to perform their duties as soldiers.

The need for reconciliation is not limited to the Army. All civilians detained by the previous regimes as well as those who were recently arrested for political reasons, will be set free. However, those who are subject to trial for malfeasance and other offenses will not enjoy the benefits of these measures. A solution is under consideration and the judicial process will start without passion or weakness.

The above mentioned measures have only one objective: the establishment of an atmosphere of peace that will pave the way for reflection and work within the framework of a return to normal constitutional life. Within 6 months, a draft constitution will be worked out. It must satisfy the aspirations of the popular masses, as were expressed during the various rallies and information meetings held by the CSP. All the socio-professional classes will be invited to contribute to the drawing up of the final draft constitution, which will be submitted to the people for approval. Once again, we hope that we will all overcome our personal, selfish considerations in order to work in a calm and responsible manner for the construction of an eventually free and prosperous Upper Volta. Long live Upper Volta.

Ouedraogo Not To Run in Presidential Elections

AB291145 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 29 May 83

[By Jerome Mainguet]

[Text] Ouagadougou, May 29 (AFP) — The Upper Voltan leader, Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, who announced last Friday

that he would be handing back power to a civilian administration almost immediately, has said that he would not be standing in presidential elections. "I am against soldiers in power. I am a soldier," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE yesterday. He would not agree to stand even if pressed by any political party, he said.

Presidential elections will be organised after the drawing up of a draft constitution, which Major Ouedraogo said would be done within six months after consultation with all sectors of the population. But he added that the two-year period for a return to normal constitutional life which he announced after taking power last November would still stand. Major Ouedraogo announced on Friday that the military People's Salvation Council (CSP) which he headed had been disbanded, the troops were returning to barracks and all political prisoners would be released. A new government would be formed soon and could contain one soldier, Major Ouedraogo said yesterday.

He warned that from now on any officer who tried playing politics, even by attending a political meeting, would be disciplined, as would anyone who tried to mount a coup d'etat. "The military chiefs have understood that the virus of politics is bad for the Army," he said.

Major Ouedraogo, who said that his decision to dissolve the CSP was "wise and realistic," acted after a showdown with his prime minister, Captain Thomas Sankara, who was arrested on May 17. Referring to this yesterday, the Upper Volta leader said, "There was such politicisation within the Army that it had lost its sense of realities and had forgotten its prime mission.... It was up to the head of state to restore its cohesion and unity." Major Ouedraogo said he had made his decision to return the country to civilian rule as soon as possible after consultation with Army commanders and "influential people within the CSP." However, there was no question of authorising the resumption of political activities before publication of the draft constitution. "We would be hampered and unable to do our job," he said.

Major Ouedraogo repeated his promise that all political prisoners would be freed as soon as possible, although they could be kept under house arrest until they could be tried. They include Colonel Saye Zerbo, whose regime was overthrown by the CSP. A committee of investigation set up by Colonel Zerbo to examine alleged abuse of power by his predecessors in the Third Republic after seizing power in November 1980, and which was maintained by the CSP, would report very soon, Major Ouedraogo said. He added that he hoped to find "patriots" and "new men with a sense of national responsibilities" among civilians to govern the country and avoid paralysis by traditional disputes and political divisions. He said he was counting on the young generation, which had not been compromised by party leaders, and he noted that recent public meetings organised by the CSP had revealed much discontent with traditional politics.

There were political parties recognised and represented in power before Colonel Zerbo took over and banned political activity. A number of other groups were not officially recognised.

Cabinet Meetings Suspended Until Further Notice

*AB271319 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 27 May 83*

[Text] There will be no Ministerial Council meetings until further notice. You might be aware that there was no Cabinet meeting yesterday. The head of state gave instructions that, since the government has resigned, each minister will see to it that the outstanding matters in his ministry are taken care of. The Cabinet meeting of 19 May 1983 was solely to inform the ministers of these instructions.

New Armed Forces Chief of Staff Named 29 May

*AB300830 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0630 GMT 30 May 83*

[Text] The Office of the President of the Republic issued a decree yesterday on a new appointment:

Article 1: Colonel (Tamini Yawa) Marcel is appointed chief of the Armed Forces General Staff.

Article 2: The present decree abrogates all previous provisions contrary to this decree.

Article 3: The Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs is entrusted with the execution of the present decree, which will be recorded and published in the *Government Gazette*.

(Signed) Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo

LESOTHO

New Protest to RSA on Border Harassment

*MB280752 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
28 May 83*

[Text] The Lesotho Government has once again protested to the South African Government about the acts the Basotho are being subjected to on the South African side of the border.

The new protest, telexed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Information of the Republic of South Africa, says that the humiliating acts of harassment are continuing unabated and have been intensified. The new protest goes further to say, "The ministry has no choice but to lodge a formal protest against the violation of all agreements existing between the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho, on matters referred to in Lesotho's telex No 207 of May 26th 1983."

It said the people of Lesotho going into and out of South Africa have been subjected to humiliating acts of harassment. Persons and goods in transit to Lesotho have also been subjected to unnecessary delaying searches and have thus been compelled to return to South Africa and Lesotho.

The ministry wishes to indicate that the situation is deteriorating at such a rate that unless the situation is immediately remedied pursuant to this protest, the ministry would request an urgent meeting between the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries in order to have the whole situation discussed and settled in the interests of the two neighboring states, the protest said.

MOZAMBIQUE

'Unidentified Aircraft' Reportedly Shot Down

*MB301818 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1800 GMT
30 May 83*

[Text] It is reported from Mozambique that an unidentified aircraft has been shot down. The official news agency, AIM, quotes eyewitnesses as saying the plane was hit by missiles, burst into flames, and plunged into Maputo Bay. Meanwhile, a report from the Portuguese news agency, ANOP, says the Mozambique Defense Ministry has confirmed two unidentified aircraft have been fired on by anti-aircraft missiles. No further details were given.

Downing of Plane Confirmed

AB301810 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Maputo, May 30 (AFP) — An unidentified jet plane was shot down over Maputo this afternoon, the official MOZAMBIKAN NEWS AGENCY confirmed here today. The jet was apparently coming from South Africa.

The agency said the Mozambican Armed Forces detected the

plane over Moamba District, northwest of the capital and bordering on South Africa. Shortly afterwards, a second plane entered Mozambican airspace, the agency said, and "repeated requests for identification" by the authorities went unanswered.

The first plane flew over Matola, where South African warplanes raided a week ago, and was over central Maputo when hit, at 14:34 p.m. local time (12:34 GMT), the agency report said.

Maputo residents heard two loud bangs and saw vapour trails from two missiles straight over the city core. The agency said the plane fell in Maputo Bay off Costa do Sol beach, approximately 10 kilometres (six miles) from the city. Eyewitnesses said it was trailing smoke and there was no sign of a parachute.

The second plane, which followed 11 kilometres (seven miles) behind, "immediately changed course, fleeing in a southerly direction," the report said.

Communique on Plane Reported

*MB310633 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT
31 May 83*

[Text] At 1434 hours local time yesterday in Maputo, anti-aircraft defense batteries of the Mozambique Armed Forces shot down an unidentified aircraft which violated our national airspace. The aircraft was detected at about 1400 hours local time in Moamba area, Maputo Province. After anti-aircraft defense units were alerted, they followed the target, which flew over Moamba, Machava, and Catembe. After passing over Catembe, the intruding aircraft flew over the bay between the city of Maputo and the island of (Shepina).

A communique issued yesterday by the FPLM General Staff disclosed that, despite repeated requests for the aircraft to identify itself, no reply was received. Accordingly, the communique added, the General Staff ordered a temporary closure of the affected airspace and ordered the anti-aircraft defense batteries to shoot down the violating aircraft.

The unidentified aircraft was downed by the first shots, and fell into the bay. A search was immediately launched to locate the aircraft and search for survivors. The two motorboats and one helicopter used in yesterday's search operation were able to locate the place where the aircraft went down. However, thus far, no survivors have been found. The search continues.

The communique from the FPLM General Staff also pointed out that minutes after the first violation of our airspace, a second target was detected violating our air space. However, it retreated toward the south as soon as the first aircraft was shot down.

Mozambique's airspace was immediately reopened, and air traffic resumed. The communique emphasized that the FPLM continues to be vigilant and is ready to repulse any attempt to violate our national sovereignty.

It will be noted that before the first plane was shot down it overflew the area which was attacked last week by racist South

African aircraft, according to information obtained from the Mozambique news agency, AIM.

Communique Announces Government Reshuffle

MB290711 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] A communique issued by the Presidency of the Republic in Maputo yesterday announces a significant government reshuffle. The communique mentions the guidelines and decisions of the Frelimo Party Fourth Congress, which define the defense of the fatherland and the fight against famine as our essential priorities.

The communique says that it is the organs of sovereignty that create the conditions for development through the maintenance of peace. Within the framework of the organs of sovereignty, the essential importance of defense requires the centralization of the leadership of these organs at the highest level in view of the present stage of our history, when our country is the target of imperialist action, and an undeclared war. Thus, Marshal Samora Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, was put in charge of the Ministry of National Defense.

The communique then says that one of the essential priorities outlined by the fourth congress, that is, the fight against famine, is part of the economic battle. The present reshuffle is also in accord with the principle of making the district the base for the country's planning and development.

It was announced the appointment of a minister in the president's office for economic affairs, the abolition of the Ministry of Security. [sentence as heard] The National People's Security Service, SNASP, will be led by the minister of security. A deputy minister of agriculture and a secretary of state for agricultural water resources were appointed to the Ministry of Agriculture. The National Commission for Communal Villages becomes part of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the position of secretary of state for the development of Limpopo and Incomati is abolished.

The communique from the Presidency of the Republic also announces the creation of the Ministry of Mineral Resources and the positions of secretary of state for light and food industry and secretary of state for tourism which, together with the secretary of state for fisheries, fall under the direct control of the Council of Ministers. The Ministry of Ports and Land Transport becomes the Ministry of Ports, Railways, and Merchant Marine. The road transport sector ceases to be part of the former ministry, and is now led by a secretary of state and falls under the direct control of the Council of Ministers. The same applies to civil aviation. The Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Civil Aviation is now known as the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Other appointments include secretaries of state for supply, international cooperation, and for technical and professional education.

The communique then announces the appointment of members of the Political Bureau for other tasks. Thus, Marcelino dos Santos is now in charge of Sofala Province. Alberto Joaquim Chipande is in charge of Cabo Delgado. Armando Guebuza has

been appointed minister of the interior. Mariano Matsinhe has been appointed minister of security, SNASP. Jacinto Veloso has been appointed as minister in the president's office for economic affairs. Mario Machungo has been put in charge of Zambesia Province, and Oscar Monteiro has been appointed minister of justice. Jose Carlos Lobo has been appointed minister of mineral resources. Joaquim de Carvalho has been appointed minister of foreign trade, and Joao Ferreira has been appointed minister of agriculture. Major General Tome Eduardo has been appointed first deputy minister of the Ministry of Interior, and Teodato Hunguana as the second deputy minister of the same ministry. (Francisco Joao Padeguana) has been put in charge of the cooperative and family sector of the Ministry of Agriculture. (Isaias Muhate) has been appointed deputy minister of the merchant marine, and (Daniel Gabriel) as deputy minister of foreign trade. Colonel Sergio Vieira has been appointed provincial governor of Niassa, Aurelio Manave of Gaza Province, and Jose Pascual Zandamela of Inhambane. (Alberto Massavanhane) has been appointed mayor of Maputo.

The communique also mentions the appointment of secretaries of state under the Council of Ministers, and of the ministries and national commissions. The appointment of cadres for enterprises will be announced shortly.

Machel Discusses Reorganization With Military

MB281003 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] A communique issued by the Office of the President yesterday says that Marshal Samora Moises Machel, commander in chief of the Mozambique Armed Forces, met with officers and veterans of the Mozambique Armed Forces yesterday to discuss the present political and military situation and to study measures designed to strengthen the organization in the ministries that guarantee the country's sovereignty. At the meeting with the Mozambique Armed Forces, President Samora Machel was accompanied by members of the Central Committee Political Bureau, and by the first secretaries of the party provincial committees. During the meeting, Marshal Samora Machel said that the reorganization of the state apparatus must be linked with the strengthening of the organization of the Mozambique Armed Forces, which are the backbone and guarantor of the alliance between the working class and the peasantry, and provide the necessary condition to inject new and truly revolutionary blood into the organs of the state and production apparatus. The measures that are being taken for the implementation of the Fourth Frelimo Congress decisions will be announced in due course.

Reportage on Defection of RSA Army Officer

Officer Allegedly Seeks Asylum

AB291035 Paris AFP in English 1024 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Maputo, May 29 (AFP) — A South African Army officer has asked for political asylum in neighbouring Mozambique, the official news agency AIM reported here today. The agency quoted an official source as saying the officer had handed himself

over to Mozambican border guards yesterday. The report gave no further details.

Last month South African Air Force planes bombed alleged bases of the African National Congress (ANC) in Maputo in retaliation for the explosion of an ANC car bomb in Pretoria the previous Friday.

Maputo 'Studying' Asylum Request

MB301227 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] The Mozambican Government is studying the possibility of granting political asylum to a South African army officer who defected to Mozambique last Saturday. The officer, Lieutenant Gerald Andreas Eckert, said he fled to Mozambique to show that there are whites in the South African Armed Forces who do not agree with the apartheid regime. Lt Eckert, who is 24, was born in Federal Germany, and his family emigrated to South Africa when he was 7. He has been in the army since last year and worked with the main army hospital at Voortrekkershoogte. He said he took the decision to flee from South Africa a month ago. Lt Eckert said he left Pretoria by car last Friday driving towards Komatipoort at the border with Mozambique. He abandoned his car and crossed the barbed wire fence into Mozambique late at night. He was armed and in uniform. At 0730 on Saturday morning he was found by Mozambican border guards, and he handed himself over. The lieutenant then asked for political asylum in Mozambique.

Matola Raid Said To Involve 14 RSA Planes

MB281126 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense, Captain (Elidio Hone), disclosed that the South African criminal raid on Matola was carried out by a total of 14 bomber aircraft, 8 of which were Impalas, with the remaining 6 Mirages. Capt (Hone) said that the planes had attacked the Ponta Matola Rio area and then the Infulene power substation, where they destroyed two pylons. Four Impala planes bombed the Liberdade, Fomento, and (Cial) suburbs, while two other Impala planes attacked the (Somopal) factory. The Petromoc refinery was attacked by two Impala planes. While the operation was in progress, the remaining four Mirage bombers flew high over Matola to protect the attacking planes.

The spokesman for the Ministry of Defense said that the raid did not reach catastrophic proportions thanks to the prompt and efficient reaction of anti-aircraft defense forces. Capt (Hone) said that no enemy planes were shot down. However, through optical flight control devices, it was ascertained that some of the South African bombers were hit by our forces' fire.

In order to attack Mozambique, the South African planes took off from a racist base south of Catuane, and after the raid they left our territory in the direction of the Hoedspruit Air Force base in the Transvaal.

The Defense Ministry spokesman described the attack as being in the framework of the aggressive campaign that the Pretoria regime has been conducting against our country.

NAMIBIA

Kavango People Fleeing From Interior

MB271223 Namibia Die Suidwester in Afrikaans 20 May 83 p 2

[Text] Hundreds of people from western Kavango are streaming from the interior to the river daily, fleeing from SWAPO terrorists. Livestock and the Mahango fields were just left as they are, says Mr Fanie Enslin, secretary of the Kavango Administration. He adds: SWAPO was very active in western Kavango recently, and people are fleeing for their lives.

About 26 schools in the interior are deserted, while the schools along the river are overcrowded. More children from the interior cannot be accommodated, says Mr Enslin. Grazing for the livestock along the river banks is also not available. Animals will definitely perish if more are brought to the river, he added. Mr Enslin says a false impression is being created that the Defense Force is driving the people from the interior to the river, while the Defense Force wants to keep the people in the interior.

Discussions were held yesterday between the Kavango Administration and the Defense Force to solve the problem. The Defense Force has offered to look after the livestock and the Mahango fields in the interior. The Kavango will thus have a chance to harvest their crops. The Defense Force will also help transport the harvest to their new homes along the river.

The situation is critical, says Mr Enslin. The people cannot live for a long time along the river and expect to survive.

SOUTH AFRICA

Air Force Denies Violating Mozambique Airspace

MB311040 Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail in English 31 May 83 p 1

[By Jose Caetano]

[Excerpt] An unidentified jet was shot and hit at 2.30 pm yesterday over Maputo by Mozambican anti-aircraft guns and later crashed into the bay.

Semi-official sources in Maputo said last night that another aircraft, which was following the first one, made a sharp turn when the pilot saw the leading aircraft being hit.

The second aircraft flew south, away from the capital.

Chris Oickers reports that the South African Defence Force has said none of its planes was involved in the reported incident.

Colonel Julius Kriel of the South African Air Force said last night that no SAAF aircraft had been in the Mozambique

airspace yesterday.

"We emphatically deny that any of our aircraft were in the area. None of our aircraft were involved in this incident," Col Kriel said.

Army Officer Reportedly Defects to Mozambique

Armed Forces Refuse Comment

AB291300 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Pretoria, May 29 (AFP) — The South African Armed Forces today refused to comment on reports that one of their officers had defected to neighbouring Mozambique. A spokesman said that he could not give any response to the report made by the Mozambique news agency AIM without the officer's name, rank and unit. He noted that previous reports from Mozambique of this nature had turned out to be false, such as the recent case of Pieter Schoeman.

Mr Schoeman was said to be a South African Army Captain captured after entering Mozambique on the orders of Pretoria to assassinate President Samora Machel. South African Foreign Minister Roelof 'Pik' Botha told the Mozambicans at a meeting of representatives of both sides on May 4 that Mr Schoeman was a common criminal already being hunted by South African police. Mr Schoeman had spent seven of his nine months of military service in prison, Mr Botha said, and he called on Maputo to acknowledge its mistake and apologise.

Rank Disclosed

AB301115 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Johannesburg, May 30 (AFP) — A South African officer who was reported to have defected to neighbouring Mozambique at the weekend is a lieutenant in the army health service, the *Rand Daily Mail* said today, quoting informed sources in the Mozambican capital of Maputo. The paper said he had made a statement after his defection condemning South Africa's policies. He was being questioned by Mozambique's intelligence services and was prepared to give a press conference.

The defection of the officer was reported yesterday by the Mozambique news agency AIM, which gave no details of his name, rank or unit. A military spokesman in Pretoria said yesterday that without this information he could make no comment on the reported defection. He noted that similar alleged cases in the past had turned out to be false.

The incident comes less than a week after South Africa's air raid on Maputo against alleged bases of the African National Congress, which had killed 19 people in Pretoria three days previously in a car bomb explosion.

Johannesburg Reports Further Details

MB301540 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1330 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] The South African soldier said to have defected to neighboring Mozambique was on a 12-month probation period in his capacity as a medical orderly with the South African Defense Force [SADF] after he obtained South African citizenship 5 months ago. Defense headquarters today announced that Lieutenant Gerald Andreas Eckert had been appointed in a temporary capacity as a male nurse. The statement said Lt Eckert had during his short stay with the SADF found it difficult (?adjusting) to military discipline. He had been absent without leave since Friday.

Spokesman on Asylum Request

MB300559 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Defense Force in Pretoria says it is impossible to react to an allegation by the Mozambican news agency AIM that a South African army officer had asked for political asylum in Mozambique, without more details being available.

He said that previous reports from Mozambique of that nature had turned out to be false, such as the recent case of Pieter Schoeman. Mozambique had claimed that Schoeman was a captain in the South African army who was captured after entering Mozambique on orders to assassinate President Machel. It was proven, though, that he was an habitual criminal with a 20-year-old police record.

The Mozambican news agency claimed that the South African, a lieutenant, had handed himself over to Mozambican border guards on Saturday. The news agency did not give more details.

Minister Comments on Recent Bomb Attacks

MB271050 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Le Grange, says people everywhere in the country should be on their guard against the kind of bomb attacks that occurred in Bloemfontein yesterday and Pretoria last week. Mr Le Grange said in Pietermaritzburg that South Africa could not allow such attacks emanating from neighboring states and that countries with terrorist bases had been warned against this repeatedly. The minister said these would not always remain mere warnings.

Clearing up at the scene of the explosion in Peet Avenue, Bloemfontein, which occurred just before the lunch hour yesterday is complete, and repair work to the damaged windows of one of the buildings in the vicinity will begin this morning. Streets in the area were reopened to traffic early yesterday evening.

Further Comment

*MB281027 Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail in English
28 May 83 p 1*

[By political correspondent John Battersby]

[Excerpts] The Lesotho foreign minister, Mr E.R. Sekhonyana, has asked for an urgent meeting with his South African counterpart, Mr Pik Botha, as tension between the two countries mounts in the wake of the Pretoria and Bloemfontein bomb blasts.

The Lesotho request came as South African police searches at Lesotho border posts caused major bottlenecks.

A spokesman for Mr Botha said the Mozambican Government yesterday replied to an urgent request for clarification of remarks by Mozambican Foreign Minister Mr Joaquim Chissano, that his government would continue to support the ANC.

And yesterday the Minister of Law and Order Mr Louis le Grange said an ANC statement claiming responsibility for the Bloemfontein bomb blast had vindicated extra police precautions along the Lesotho border.

"The ANC statement makes a mockery of denials by Lesotho that there is no ANC presence there," said Mr le Grange.

"We are becoming so accustomed to these denials that we really cannot take them seriously any more."

He said that the extra precautions had been taken because the police had expected another bomb attack following last week's bomb blast in Pretoria which killed 18 people and injured more than 200 others.

He also rejected claims by Mr Thebo Mbeki, ANC publicity chief in Lusaka, that the ANC only attacked military, political and economic installations, and therefore would not have been responsible for the Bloemfontein blast.

"Their bomb in the Bloemfontein Administration Board offices in which 76 black people were injured is sufficient answer to that claim," said Mr le Grange.

"They have also placed bombs on black suburban railway lines from Soweto and on lines serving both blacks and Indians in Durban.

"The ANC is simply resorting to indiscriminate attacks on all races inspired by the Soviet bloc."

ANC Blames Rightist Group for Bloemfontein Blast

AB271154 Paris AFP in English 1108 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam, May 27 (AFP) — The African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa today blamed the "ultra-rightwing racist movement" for yesterday's bomb explosion in the Orange Free State capital of Bloemfontein yesterday.

ANC chief representative in Tanzania Stanley Mabizela told

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS that the bomb was planted in an attempt to discredit the black struggle against the white minority regime in South Africa and in retaliation for last Friday's ANC car bomb attack in Pretoria.

"We do not have an official report yet on this blast, but it would be unthinkable for us to plant a bomb where our people congregate for jobs," Mr Mabizela said.

Noting that yesterday's bomb explosion took place outside a Bloemfontein labour exchange frequented mainly by black people, Mr Mabizela added, "seriously speaking, we will not plant a bomb where our people assemble because such an act would amount to launching a massacre of our own people."

He said that extreme rightwingers in South Africa "were always looking for an opportunity to see the blood of Africans run in the streets."

Mr Mabizela warned Pretoria regime that the freedom tide was now against the "boers" in South Africa.

Meanwhile Organisation of African Unity Executive Secretary Hashim Mbita said that the Pretoria blast, which killed 18 people and injured more than 200 near South African Air Force Headquarters, reflected a new intensity in the struggle against apartheid.

Brigadier Mbita said the Pretoria bomb attack was planned and executed by people inside South Africa, and he rejected South African claims that the operation was conducted from neighbouring African countries.

White Communists Said Responsible for Car Blast

*MB271651 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1529 GMT
27 May 83*

[Text] Pretoria, May 27, SAPA — The police have refused to comment on a claim that the Pretoria car bomb attack was carried out by white communists who were acting on direct orders from Moscow.

According to a report from Paris which appeared today in the Johannesburg newspaper, *The Star*, a claim to this effect had been made in a confidential newsletter, linked to French intelligence.

It reported the newsletter as saying the attack was not made by the African National Congress which, rather tardily, claimed to have done so.

Approached in Pretoria today for comment, a police spokesman said: "We have no comment on the claim. Obviously we cannot make known at this stage who we are looking for as it will hamper our investigation."

Pik Botha Hopes To Meet With Lesotho Counterpart

*MB280720 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 27 May 83*

[Text] A spokesman for the office of the minister of foreign affairs says Mr Pik Botha hopes to find time for talks with his Lesotho counterpart despite a full program. His statement follows a protest by Lesotho to South Africa over the traffic pile up at border posts between South Africa and Lesotho.

The newly appointed chief security officer of South Africa, Brigadier Steenkamp, said earlier that because of the terrorism threat to the country police were carrying out a thorough search of vehicles at border posts.

The foreign affairs spokesman said that over the next 3 days Mr Botha had commitments in the northern Transvaal, Pretoria, and Bophuthatswana. Furthermore, on Monday, he would be attending a ministerial meeting between South Africa, Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, and Venda. The spokesman said Mr Botha, despite his tight schedule, wished to hold talks with the Lesotho foreign minister, as he wished to learn from him what Lesotho was doing to remove ANC elements from the country.

SWAZILAND**Police Smash ANC Military Training Base**

*MB300640 Mbabane The Times of Swaziland in English
30 May 83 pp 1, 16*

[By Mashumi Twala]

[Excerpt] Security police smashed an ANC military training operation at Mlilwane at the weekend.

A huge consignment of arms of war were seized.

Three people have since been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the military base.

The training camp was discovered by game wardens at the wildlife sanctuary, a police spokesman said.

He told *The Times*: "The camp seems to have been in operation for quite some time. Whoever uses it must have been already at home.

"There must have been a lot of them using it, but I doubt if they all used it at the same time because they would long have been discovered.

"We found various arms, literature, kitchen utensils and general household goods.

"As I say, it seems they had made themselves a temporary home."

The spokesman said, after the tip off by the wardens and the discovery of the training base, a black South African man was arrested at the sanctuary.

He said: "When he was approached he dashed off in his car. He then decided to abandon it and ran away on foot. Unfortunately for him he fell into a dam and we caught up with him.

"We took the car, which has a South African registration number, and brought it here.

"This morning two people, one an Indian and the other a black, were also arrested.

"We launched a big operation comprising 12 officers.

"We also used the newly obtained sniffer dogs which were bought specifically for arms detection.

"I am not yet aware if they brought back anything because they still have to make a report.

"The two men were apparently staying in one of the boarding huts and I should think they were sort of agents for whoever uses the training camp," he added.

Deny Finding Arms Cache

*MB310640 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT
31 May 83*

[Text] Police in Swaziland have denied they found a large weapons store. Yesterday, it was reported a large cache had been found by rangers in the Mlilwane game sanctuary, about 20 km from Mbabane. However, police say they have arrested three members of the African National Congress. The police spokesperson has not said why the men were arrested but has denied it was for possession of arms of war.

Further on Denial

*MB310741 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in Siswati
1630 GMT 31 May 83*

[Text] Police Commissioner Titus Msibi today told our reporter that the report by the *Times of Swaziland* that the police found a cache of arms at an ANC training camp at the Mlilwane game park is not true. Mr Msibi said this is not at all true, and that not even a pocket knife had been found there. However, he said it was true that he arrested three people, two members of the ANC, and a third who appeared to be sympathizer of the ANC.

Asked if Simon Ngwenya, a reporter for the *Rand Daily Mail*, had been arrested and if so, what for, Mr Msibi denied that he had been arrested and said that his presence at the Lobamba Police Station was to help the police with inquiries into an article he wrote for the *Rand Daily Mail* which Mr Msibi said, was untrue. He said Ngwenya was eventually released and instructed to return home after the police had thoroughly satisfied themselves with the inquiries.

Mr Msibi also denied allegations that police have raided homes where ANC members are living, and said that the people who were arrested in Manzini last week were arrested when police raided homes of criminals, robbers, and thieves. He said that

what the police are trying to do is to protect the nation from criminals.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Reiterates Support for SWAPO, ANC
AB301930 Dakar PANA in English 1925 GMT 30 May 83

[Text] Lusaka, May 30 (ZANA/PANA) — President Kaunda today pledged Zambia's continued support for the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) in Namibia and the African National Congress (A.N.C.) of South Africa in their liberation struggles.

The Zambian leader made the pledge at a military training centre at Ndola, 512 kilometers (320 miles) north of here.

"We support these struggles because it is wrong for one group of people, purely on the basis of colour, to subject another to inhuman treatment," Dr Kaunda said.

The president condemned the policy of apartheid in the strongest terms saying it is the duty of the free world to render moral and diplomatic support to the suffering masses of Namibia and South Africa.

Dr Kaunda also strongly condemned South Africa's recent wanton and unprovoked bombing of Matola in Mozambique.

He warned that the reckless use of lethal weapons would not stop an explosion that was bound to erupt in South Africa if no positive changes took place in the immediate future.

ZIMBABWE

Prime Minister Returns From East Europe Tour
MB290832 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 May 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, arrived in Harare this morning after a 10-day tour of three East European socialist countries. During his tour of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and the German Democratic Republic, the prime minister held talks on bilateral, international, and southern African issues with the leaders of the host countries. Agreements on economic, political, technical, and cultural cooperation were signed by the prime minister's delegation and the representatives of the host countries.

In Harare, residents gathered at the Harare International Airport to welcome the prime minister. They included cabinet ministers, government, and party officials.

To Visit USSR

AB290840 Paris AFP in English 0800 GMT 29 May 83

[Text] Harare, May 29 (AFP) — Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe announced today that he would visit the Soviet

Union this year and implied that he had discussed security assistance with Soviet-bloc states on his just-ended tour of Eastern Europe. Mr Mugabe spoke to reporters at an airport news conference on his return to Harare from London, where he stopped over for a day following an 11-day tour of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. The Zimbabwean leader said his trip had been "historic" and had served "to consolidate relations between Eastern Europe and ourselves".

The countries he visited, as most of the Soviet bloc, helped Mr Mugabe's nationalist rival Joshua Nkomo during the war against white rule in this country and generally neglected Mr Mugabe's ZANU Party. The just-completed tour and the announcement of an upcoming Soviet trip are clear signs of warming between Zimbabwe and Warsaw Pact countries.

Mr Mugabe, who was accompanied by four cabinet ministers including Security Minister Emmerson Munangagwa, was asked whether his delegation had discussed security assistance with his hosts. "We discussed the need for greater security in the region against the background of South African aggression", Mr Mugabe said. "We would have been foolish not to discuss how we can strengthen our defenses in this region". He did not elaborate. Zimbabwe, like the other black-ruled states of southern Africa, charges that white-ruled South Africa is mounting a concerted campaign of economic and military destabilization against its neighbors.

In a final communique following his four-day visit to East Germany, Mr Mugabe and Communist Party leader Erich Honecker condemned Monday's South African air raid into Mozambique as a "cowardly act of terror".

Mr Mugabe did not say exactly when he would visit the Soviet Union, but said the trip would be "sometime this year" and would "serve to cement our socialist alliance".

The prime minister, whose nonaligned government has so far maintained Zimbabwe's historically close economic ties with Western nations such as America and Britain, was fulsome in his praise of the "unbelievable level of development" in the centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe.

The Zimbabwean leader also said that he had not seen or talked to Mr Nkomo, in self-exile in Britain since March, while in London.

Acquitted Nkomo Aides 'Indefinitely Detained'
AB271510 Paris AFP in English 1454 GMT 27 May 83

[Text] Harare, May 27 (AFP) — The Zimbabwe Government has ordered indefinitely detained six aides to fugitive opposition leader Joshua Nkomo who were acquitted last month on charges of treason and illegally hiding arms. Dumiso Dabengwa and Lookout Masuku, former Nkomo guerrilla chiefs in the 1970's war to end minority rule, and other Nkomo aides, were acquitted of the charges last month, but quickly redetained under Zimbabwe's emergency powers regulations on a 30-day detention order.

The new detention order, signed yesterday, is for an indefinite

period. Although the men do not have a right to a trial, they will at some time in the future have the chance to argue their case before a review tribunal. The government does not have to abide by the tribunal's recommendations, however. The government of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has frequently re-arrested and detained for indefinite periods people already acquitted of security-related offences.

Sabotage Trial Testimony Cites RSA Involvement

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[Excerpt] Harare, May 26, SAPA — The sabotage of Zimbabwean military aircraft at the Thornhill Air Base at Gweru in July last year was carried out by former members of the Rhodesian Security Forces and the plot had the approval of the "South African Bureau of State Security [BOSS]," the Harare High Court was told today.

Statements handed in to the court in the trial of six air force officers charged with assisting in the sabotage that cost the Zimbabwe Air Force 7.18 million Zimbabwean dollars (about R7.80 million), also said the officers admitted complicity in the sabotage but had participated only because of threats against their families.

The six officers, Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slatter, Air Commodore Phillip Pile, Wing Commanders Peter Briscoe and John Cox, and Air Lieutenants Barrington Lloyd and Neville Weir, have pleaded not guilty.

In the opening stages of the trial this week, the officers' British defence counsel, Mr Harry Ognall, said he would be challenging the admissibility of the statements on the grounds that they had been obtained from the officers under physical and psychological duress.

Air Vice-Marshal Slatter said in his statement he had been approached by Air Vice-Marshal Pink, the former air force chief-of-staff, who was now living in South Africa, who told him, and others of the accused officers, that the Zimbabwe Air Force was "finished."

Air Vice-Marshal Slatter said he had no option but to participate in the sabotage if he wished to ensure the safety of his family, and was in a dilemma because of his concern for his family.